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ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka

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Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken v1 c1

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AFTERNOON KC

零崎双識の人間試験 1

原作 西尾維新
漫画 シオミヤイルカ
キャラクター原案 竹
講談社

9784063107951
1929979005719
講談社
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「人が死ぬ物語には
どうしようもない悪人しか登場しないし、
またするべきではないのだよ」
(講談社ノベルス「零崎双識の人間試験」より)

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零崎双識の人間試験①

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零識の人間試験

1

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キャラクター原案 竹

零識の人間試験

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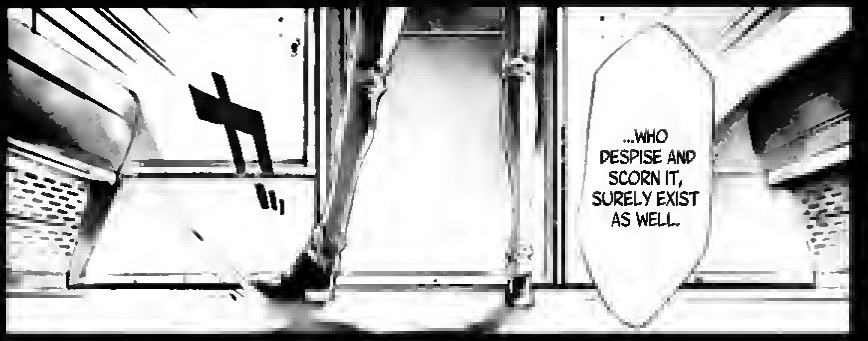
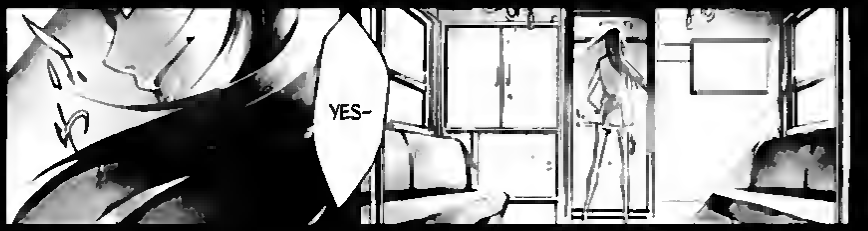
IN THIS WORLD, MANY CHOICES EXIST.
WE... NO...
YOU ALL POSSESS THE RIGHT AND FREEDOM TO MAKE CHOICES.
Question 1
I'M SURE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES AWAIT BEYOND THOSE CHOICES.
BUT UNFORTU-NATELY,

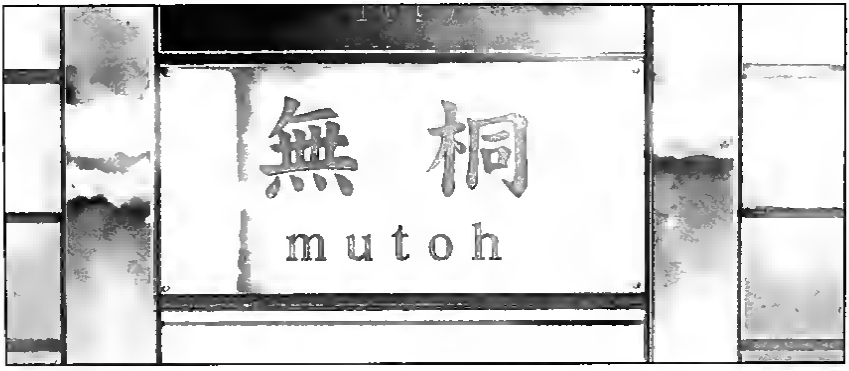
What I speak of,
...is "evil."

...THOSE WHO DENY THIS RIGHT AND FREEDOM,

...WHO ABANDON IT,
...WHO STEAL IT,
...WHO OBSTRUCT IT,


...WHO DESPISE AND SCORN IT, SURELY EXIST AS WELL.


YES-


無 桐
mutoh

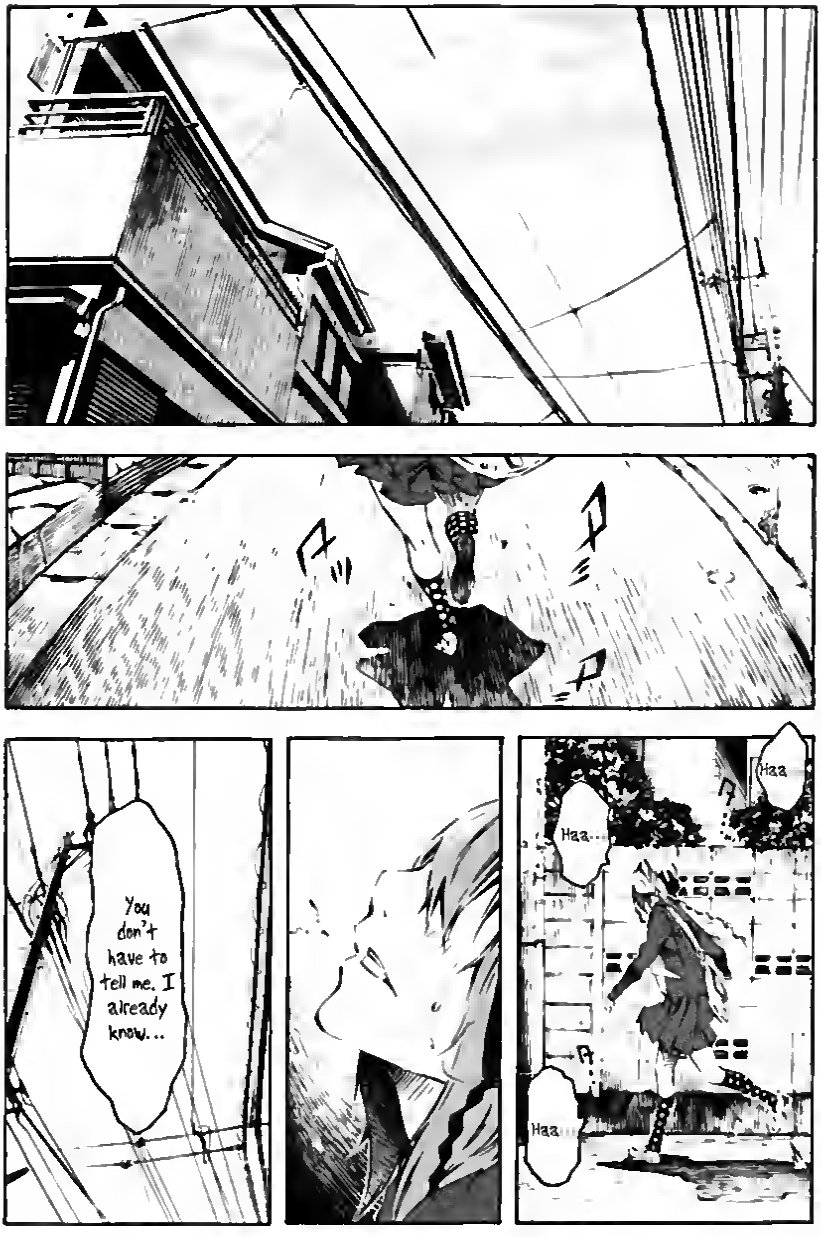
IORI.

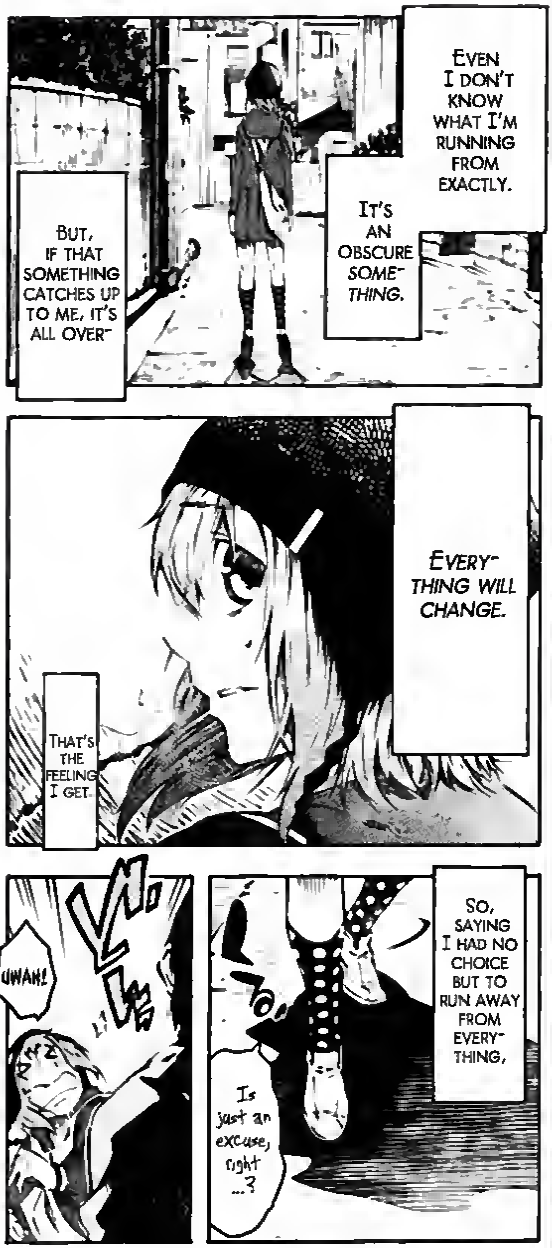
...oh.
Oh, well, if it isn't Kengo onii-sama... good morning... to you.
.....
IN AN ENDEAVOR TO IMPROVE HER STUDIES FOR YET ANOTHER DAY, YOUR BELOVED LITTLE SISTER, IORI-CHAN,
ビシッ
...SHALL HEAD OFF TO THE SCHOOL-HOUSE,
AND SO!
HOLD IT.
GUEH!

DON'T RUN AWAY.
I HEAR YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T TURNED IN HER CAREER SURVEY YET.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.
YOU NEVER MAKE AN EFFORT TO MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES.
YOU HAVE BEEN CONTIN-UOUSLY RUNNING AWAY, EVER SINCE YOU WERE BORN.
EVEN FROM ME,
...AND FROM YOUR-SELF, TOO.

IF YOU KEEP PUTTING THINGS OFF LIKE THAT,
BY THE TIME YOU REALIZE IT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT,
...OR MAKE ANY MORE CHOICES.
EVENTUALLY, YOU'LL COME TO A DEAD END, AND YOUR ONLY OPTION WILL BE TO STRAY FROM YOUR PATH.
.....
I...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M RUNNING AWAY BECAUSE I WANT TO!
WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW IS-
KENGO-?
HAVE YOU SEEN MY EARRINGS?
?

BULLY-ING YOUR LITTLE SISTER AGAIN?
.....
...I'M JUST LECT-URING HER.
SOO, MY EAR-RINGS?
.....


You don't have to tell me. I already know...
Haa...
Haa...
Haa...


EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M RUNNING FROM EXACTLY.
IT'S AN OBSCURE SOME-THING.
BUT, IF THAT SOMETHING CATCHES UP TO ME, IT'S ALL OVER-
EVERY-THING WILL CHANGE.
THAT'S THE FEELING I GET.
YO
UWAH!
SO, SAYING I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN AWAY FROM EVERY-THING,
Is just an excuse, right ...?

I'VE BEEN RUNNING NONSTOP FOR 17 YEARS.

Wah!
Wh-
Whoa...
I'm sorry!
I was kinda lost in thought, and...
YOU..
WHA??
.....

YOU'RE FROM THE REROZAKI FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?
.....
?

No.. umm... I think you might have the wrong person.
.....
And I'm sure this is our first time meeting, so...
ANY-WAY, I WAS THINKING THIS EARLIER TOO, BUT..
HUH--!
ARE THEY IGNORING ME?!
THEIR EYES LOOK,
DEAD
...WELL, THAT'S THAT, SO...
...I'LL JUST BE...

Hey,
!?
Let go...
Please, let me go!
IF I DON'T
I HAVE TO HURRY AND RUN FOR IT...
Mm...
Mm...
I HAVE TO RUN AWAY.

My hand...
.....?

PLEASE LET GO OF MY HAND.

SOME-
THING
WILL END UP
CHANGING
ME...

WHOA...
WHOA
PLEASE DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND SO SUDDENLY!
HYAH!
CARE-FUL.
UWAH...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!?

My lovely little lady.

FOR
INSTANCE,

Let's say there is a homicidal monster here
And conforming to his raison d'etre, he kills.
And the person he kills, obviously ends up dying.
Why did they die exactly?
What was "wrong" here?
-right,

Obviously, the homicidal monster who killed,
...WAS "WRONG."
...WERE "WRONG."
NOW, THIS TIME, LET'S SAY THAT THE HOMICIDAL MONSTER WAS CAPTURED,
AND HE'S GIVEN THE DEATH SENTENCE.
OF COURSE, NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE HOMICIDAL MONSTER'S ACTIONS,
BUT, WHAT IF...
BY CHANCE, HE WAS FALSELY CHARGED? WHAT THEN?

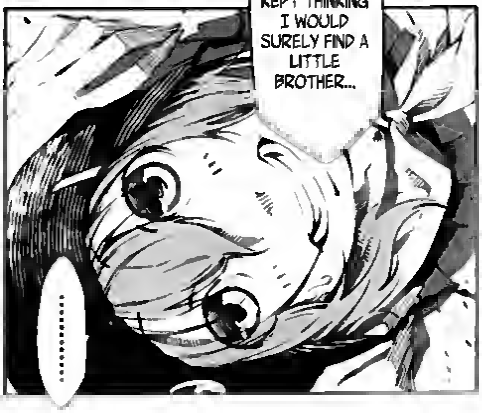
IF THE HOMICIDAL MONSTER DIDN'T ACTUALLY KILL ANYONE...
IF HE WERE EXECUTED SOLELY ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WAS A "HOMICIDAL MONSTER,"
IN THIS CASE, THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM,
POSSIBLY, THE MINDS OF THE INVESTIGATOR AND JUDGE,
...WERE "WRONG."
...THIS TIME AROUND.
IN THIS SITUATION, WITHOUT A DOUBT—
ALSO, LET'S SAY THAT THAT INVESTIGATOR, IN A LOCATION COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO THE CASE,
...IS CRUSHED TO DEATH BY A METEORITE

His luck was "bad."
I WONDER IF YOU'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY BY THIS POINT.
IN OTHER WORDS,
A PERSON'S DEATH IS AN IDEA THAT IS SHADOWED BY THE CONCEPT OF "BAD."
AND THAT CONCEPT DOESN'T ALLOW EVEN A MILLIMETER OF SPACE FOR GOODWILL OR GOOD SENSE TO GET THROUGH.

IN A TALE THAT INVOLVES A PERSON'S DEATH, ALL YOU SEE ARE "BAD" GUYS.
BUT THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PROBE, THE ONLY THING YOU FIND IN SOMEONE'S DEATH-
...IS THE CONCEPT OF "BAD."

Uh...
Umm...
HMM?
WHAT IS IT?

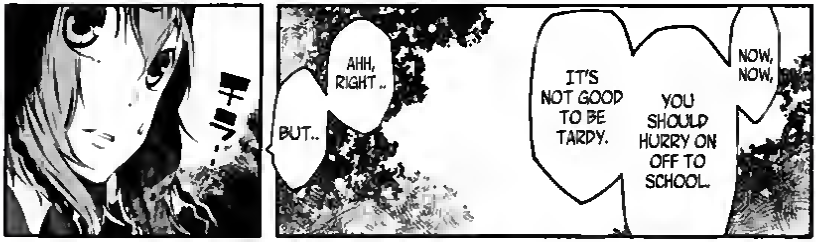
MY...
THIS IS QUITE AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOP-MENT.


I JUST KEPT THINKING I WOULD SURELY FIND A LITTLE BROTHER...
.....

It would be nice if you would let go of me right about now...
.....
WHOOPS, LOOK AT WHAT I'M DOING
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
N.. NO PROB-LEM...
BUT HOW UNFORTU-NATE FOR YOU.
EH?

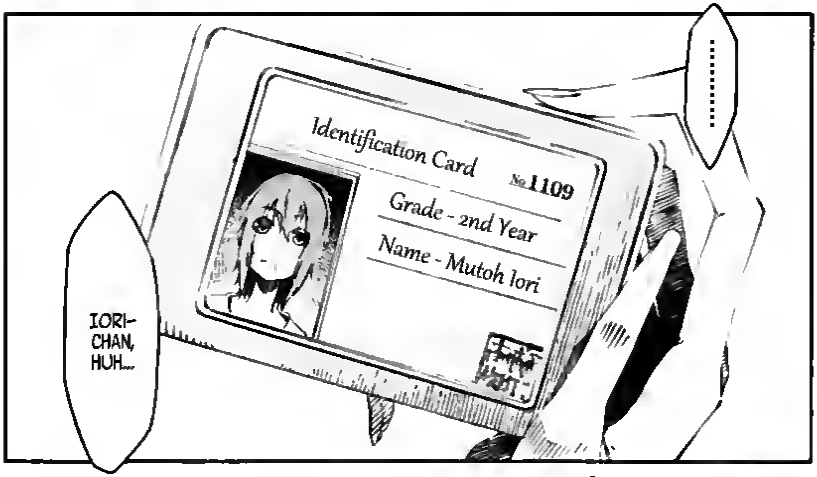
FOR SOME REASON, IT SEEMS THEY MISTOOK YOU FOR ME, AND CALLED OUT TO YOU.
IS...
IS THAT SO?

WHAT A RUDE DUO.
THAT THEY COULD MISTAKE SUCH A LOVELY YOUNG GIRL FOR SOMEONE AS WONDERFUL AS ME.
RIGHT...
That's true.


NOW, NOW,
YOU SHOULD HURRY ON OFF TO SCHOOL.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE TARDY.
AHH, RIGHT..
BUT..

WILL YOU BE OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT BUT...THESE PEOPLE...
IT'S OKAY.

Leave this to me.
Th... then, I'll take your word for it and excuse myself, but umm...
YEAH, THANKS.
Please be careful.


Identification Card
№1109
Grade - 2nd Year
Name - Mutoh Iori
IORI-CHAN, HUH...

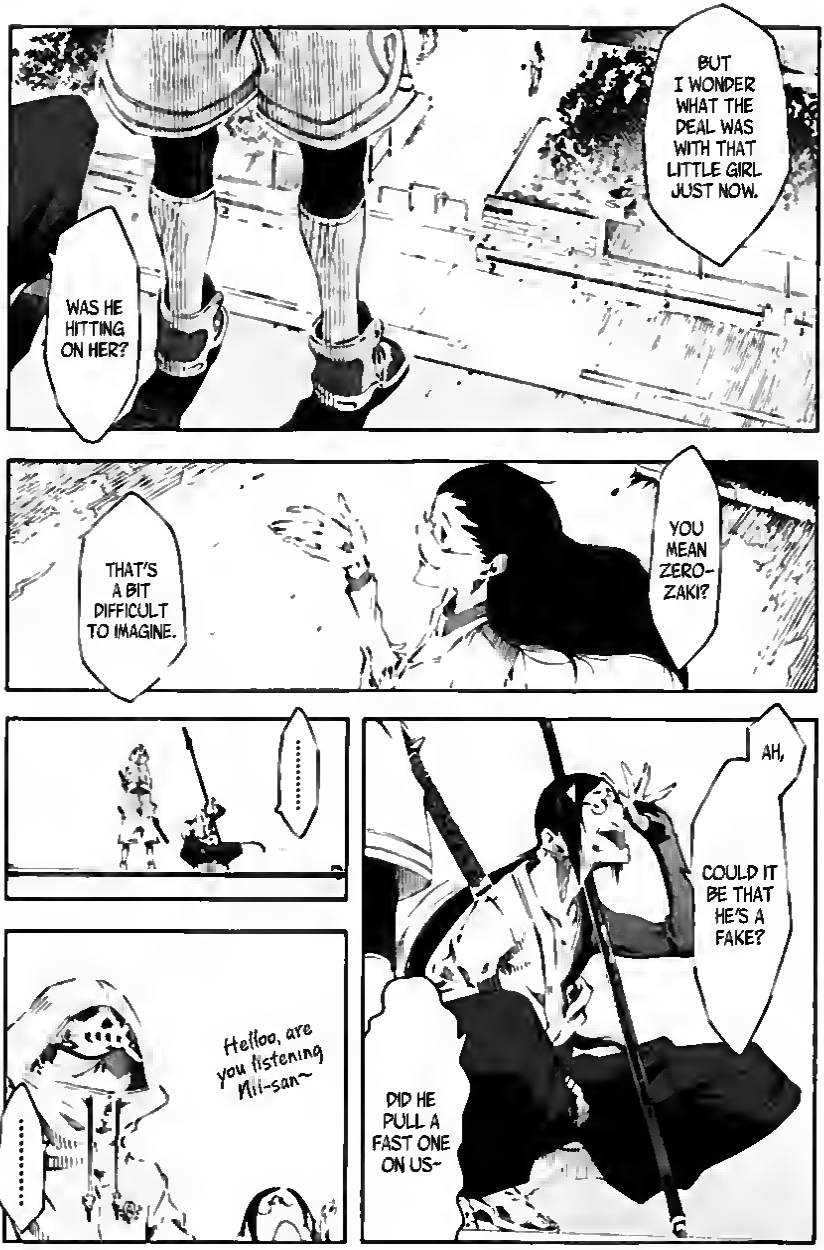
BE CAREFUL OF THE WORLD.

YOU AS WELL~

NOW THEN!
SORRY FOR THE LONG WAIT.
YOU HAD SOME BUSINESS WITH ME, RIGHT?
YOU'RE FROM THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY, RIGHT?
Yes, that's right.
!-

...AM ZE-
ROZAK!

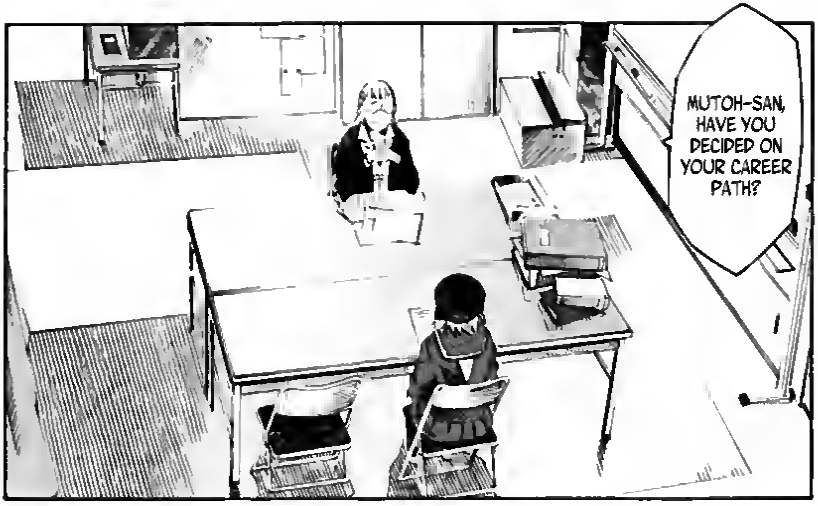
WE FINALLY FOUND HIM.
ZEROZAKI

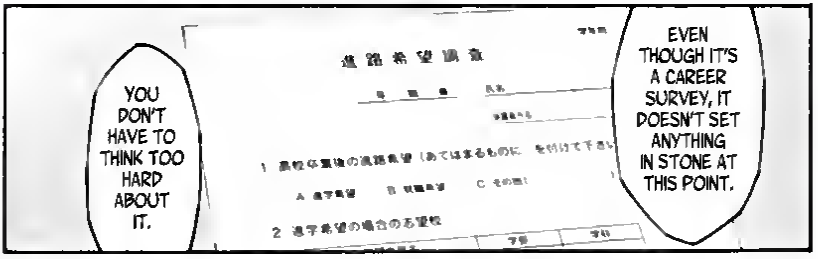

BUT I WONDER WHAT THE DEAL WAS WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL JUST NOW.
WAS HE HITTING ON HER?
YOU MEAN ZERO-ZAKI?
THAT'S A BIT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE.
.....
AH,
COULD IT BE THAT HE'S A FAKE?
DID HE PULL A FAST one ON US~
Hellloo, are you listening Mii-san~
.....

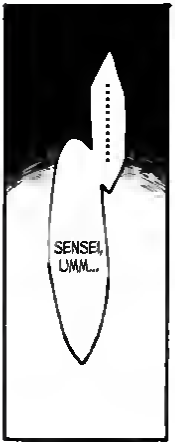
I KNOW THAT WIRY FIGURE.
NOT TO MENTION, THE INCIDENT ON THE TRAIN THE OTHER DAY.
IT'S ALSO A FACT THAT THE GENUINE ARTICLE IS NEARBY.
THERE IS NO DOUBT.
THEN THAT MAKES ME EVEN MORE CURIOUS ABOUT THAT LITTLE GIRL.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE PUPPETS REACTED TO HER FIRST, TOO.
SHOULD I TRY AGITATING HER A BIT?

Nii-san?
Well,

Career Counseling


MUTOH-SAN, HAVE YOU DECIDED ON YOUR CAREER PATH?


YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK TOO HARD ABOUT IT.
進路希望調査
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A CAREER SURVEY, IT DOESN'T SET ANYTHING IN STONE AT THIS POINT.


.....
SENSEI, UMM...

... THE FUTURE
WHAT I WANT TO DO.

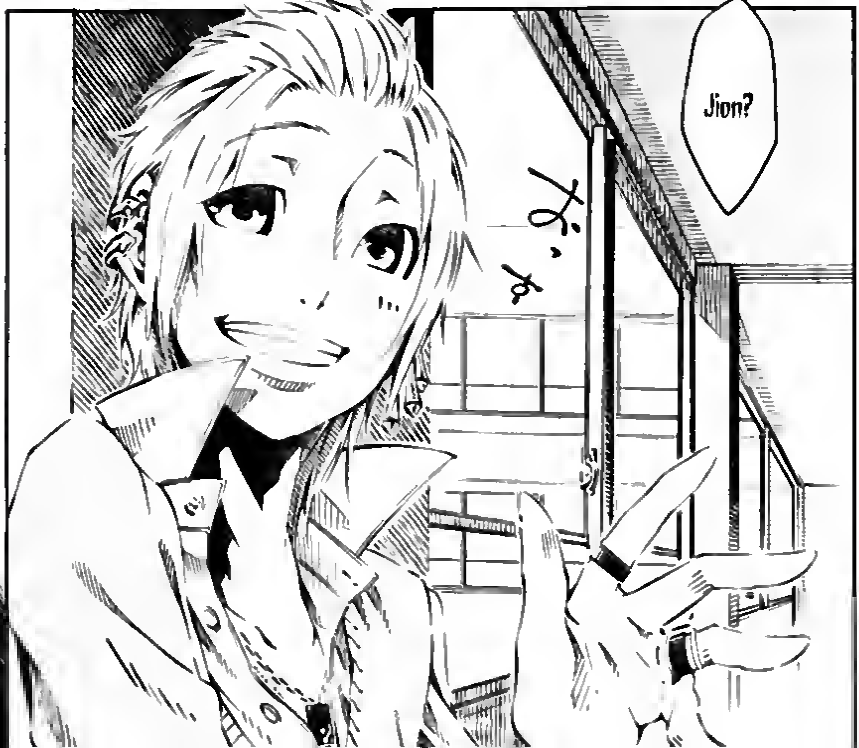
WITH YOUR GRADES, YOU CAN APPLY TO MOST COLLEGES.
AND YOU CAN SEARCH FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE IN COLLEGE, TOO.

Umm... er...
EH, ME?!
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BECOME A TEACHER?
IT MIGHT BE TOUGH BEING A PUBLIC WORKER, BUT MAYBE IT WON'T BE SO BAD... IS WHAT I THOUGHT.
AND I HAD NO REDEEMING QUALITIES OR TALENTS OUTSIDE OF STUDYING.
...BUT I ACTUALLY DIDN'T DISLIKE TEACHING THINGS TO PEOPLE.
WELL, THERE'S THE FACT THAT BOTH MY PARENTS WERE TEACHERS,
Normal.
SENSEI, YOU'RE KIND OF...

ガラ

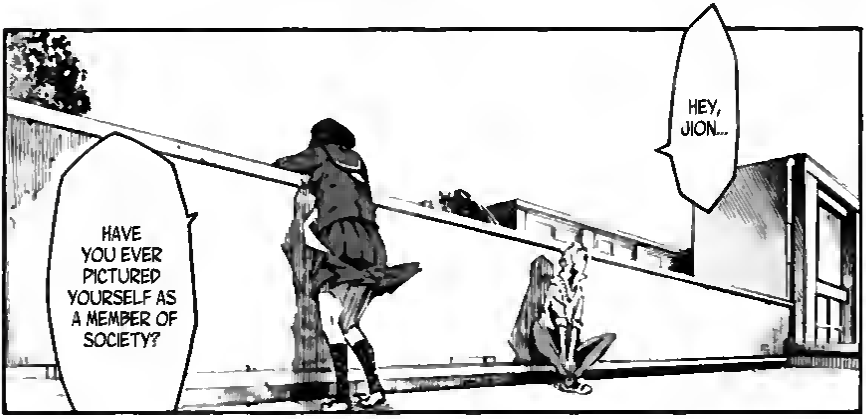
……
OH?

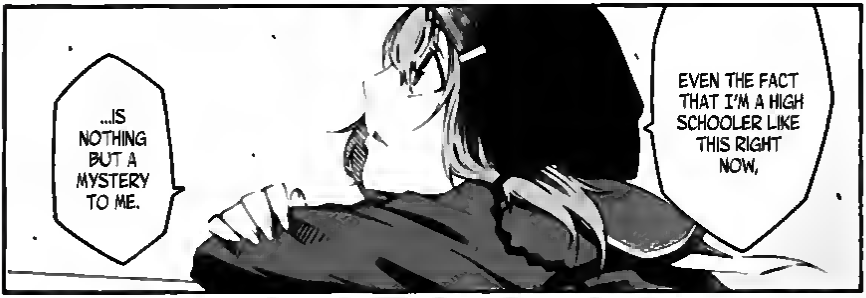
はぁ…
FUU…

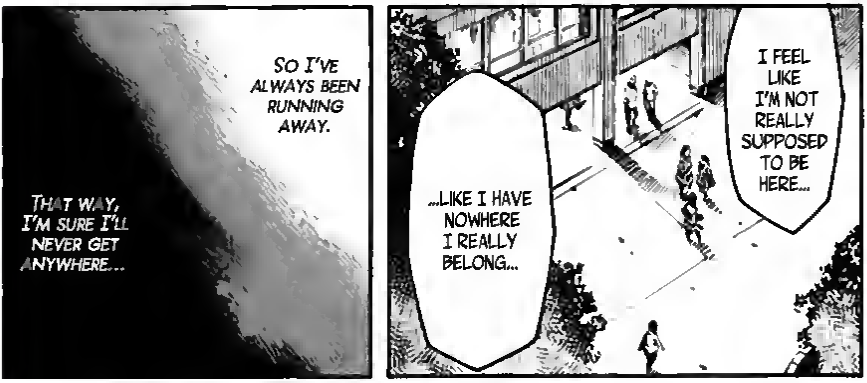

Jion?
なぁ

"Normal"
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT CONCEPT?
THE REASON BEING,
THEY HATE SUITS AND TIES.
NO MATTER THE AGE, EVERY YOUTH LOOKS UP TO SPORTS ATHLETES OR MUSICIANS.

...THAT THEY'RE OVERFLOWING WITH THE REGULARITY OF "NORMAL."
...LACKING INDIVIDUALITY AND PERSONALITY. THEY FEAR ALL OF THAT.
...BEING THE SAME AS OTHERS,
BEING AVERAGE,
...IS SOMETHING THEY DON'T REALIZE TO BE THE MOST WONDERFUL OF ALL...
BEING "NORMAL,"
THAT-


HEY, JION...
HAVE YOU EVER PICTURED YOURSELF AS A MEMBER OF SOCIETY?


EVEN THE FACT THAT I'M A HIGH SCHOOLER LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW,
...IS NOTHING BUT A MYSTERY TO ME.


I FEEL LIKE I'M NOT REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE HERE...
...LIKE I HAVE NOWHERE I REALLY BELONG...
SO I'VE ALWAYS BEEN RUNNING AWAY.
THAT WAY, I'M SURE I'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE...

ISN'T LIFE SUPPOSED TO BE MORE EASYGOING?
YOU THINK WAY TOO MUCH, MUTOH
...or something like that
I'M GONNA BE A MUSICIAN IN THE FUTURE AND BECOME THE NEXT JIM MORRISON!!

IT'S ALWAYS PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT END UP A WHITE-COLLAR WORKER WHEN YOU SEE THEM AT A CLASS REUNION.
HAA ?!
I'M NOT SETTLING FOR SOME ORDINARY OFFICE LIFE!
.....
BUT, WELL...
I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW.
THANK YOU, JION.

H...
HEY...
WANNA DITCH AFTERNOON CLASSES AND GO SOME-WHERE...?
BECAUSE IORI-CHAN ISN'T A BAD GIRL.
I'LL PASS.
WHY?!
HMM
ISN'T IT NORMAL TO DITCH SCHOOL...
...IT'S NORMAL NOT TO DITCH, JION...

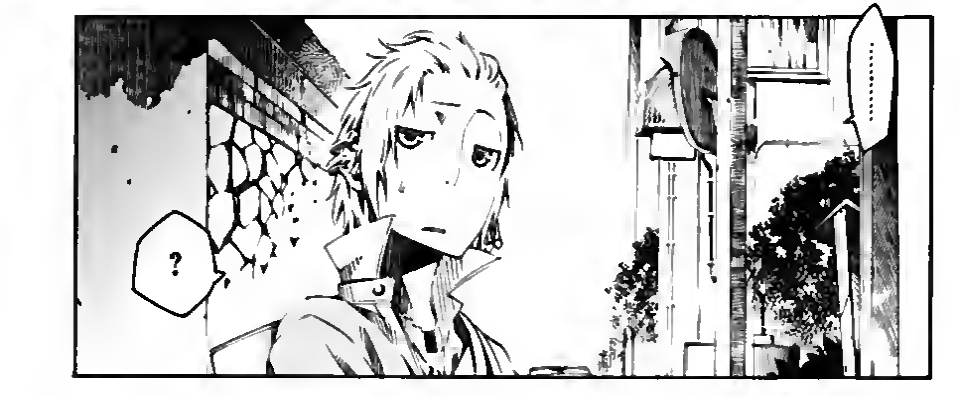
You must never force yourself away from "normal."
AT THE END OF THE DAY, ONE'S HAPPI-NESS,
...LIES IN GETTING ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
THAT'S WHY, IN ACTUALITY, THINGS THAT ARE "NORMAL" AND "OBVIOUS" ARE TRULY BLESSINGS.
THINGS LIKE PRESTIGE, HONOR, STATUS AND FORTUNE DON'T MATTER.
AND OF COURSE, THINGS LIKE "TALENT" AND "DISPOSITION" SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
That is,

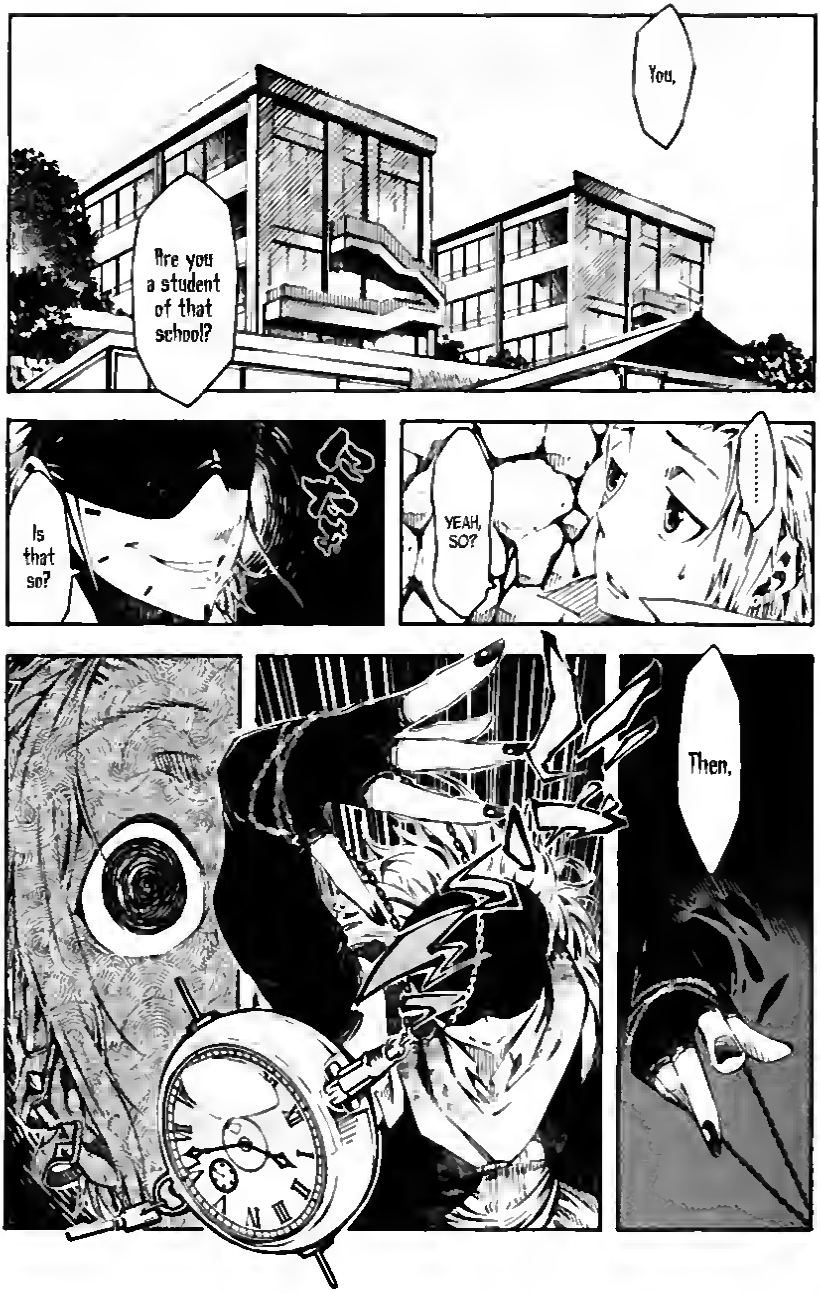
IF YOU WISH TO LIVE AS A HUMAN BEING,

I SHOULD'VE DITCHED WITH JION INSTEAD OF COMING HERE FOR THIS...
SLEEPY
I WONDER IF THAT GUY FROM THIS MORNING WAS OKAY...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
.....
LEAVE THIS TO ME.
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WAS OUR FIRST TIME MEETING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST TRUSTED HIM LIKE THAT...
IT WAS LIKE..

I'D KNOWN HIM FOR THE LONGEST TIME.

AH-
AH...
DATE,
FAILED.
SHOULD I GO TO THE GAME CENTER OR SOME-THING...
WHA...



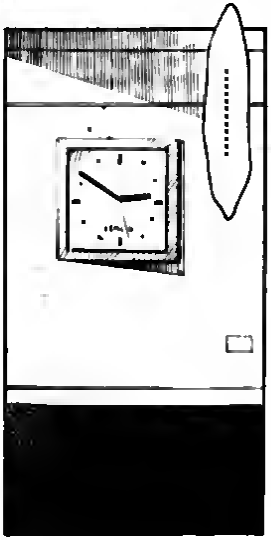

You.
Are you a student of that school?
Is that so?
YEAH, SO?
Then,

YOU WILL DO.

HAH!

I FELL ASLEEP...
UHH...

UNAH?


.....

UWAH
IT'S TOTALLY EMPTY HERE..
I WONDER IF THEY'RE HAVING AN ASSEMBLY IN THE GYM OR SOMETHING...
BUT REALLY THOUGH...
THERE'S THIS BAD FEELING IN THE AIR..
GOD
WAKE ME UP, PEOPLE.

WAH!
JI..
JION?
DIDN'T YOU LEAVE EARLY?
YOU, really scared me...
BUT ANYWAYS, I WAS STARTING TO WONDER WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO ALL BY MYSELF.

WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS ALL ALONE IN THE-
You're from the Zerozaki family, right?
.....
HMM?
I KIND OF FEEL LIKE I WAS ASKED THE SAME THING THIS MORNING...
IS THAT A POPULAR THING?
THAT-

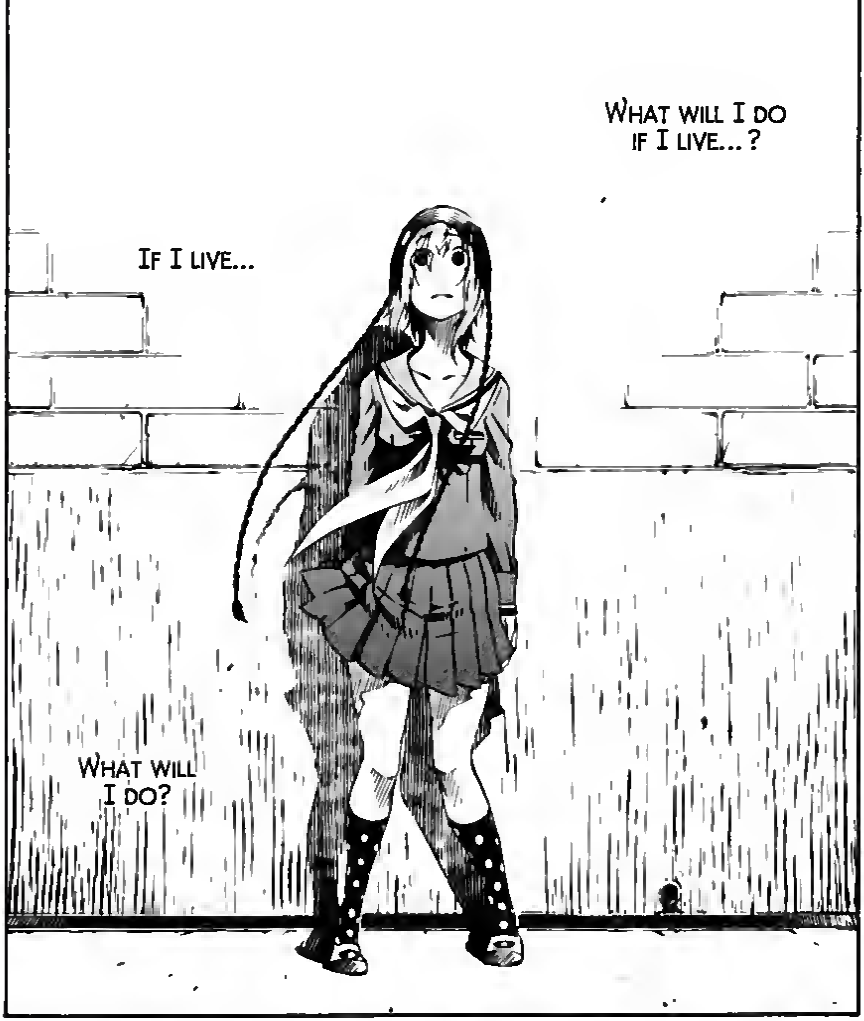
WAIT,
WAH?!
COME ON,
WHAT WAS THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN, JION...
OWWWW...
OW...
GUEH

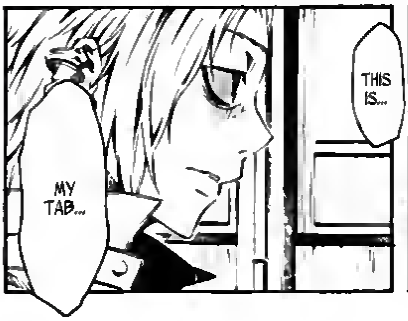
AAAAHH!!!

WHA-
WHA-
WHA-
ANY-ONE...
IS ANYONE HERE?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!!

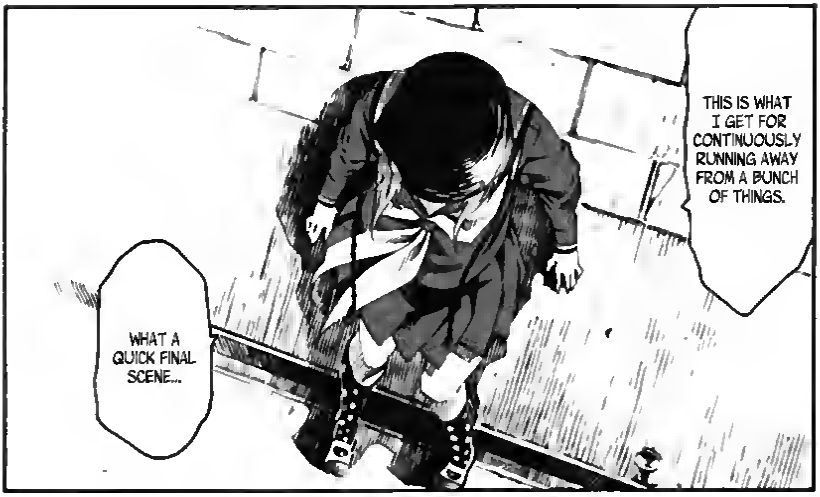
HAA...
HAA...
U T
R N
EYES THAT LOOK DEAD
THOSE EYES AGAIN...
THEY'RE THE SAME AS THE PEOPLE FROM THIS MORN ING...
HAA...
HAA...

Why ...?!
Am I going to die?!
No way!!
It ends here?!
I've only lived 17 years.
Hah...
I WANT TO LIVE-
This is way too soon...
More ...


WHAT WILL I DO IF I LIVE...?
IF I LIVE...
WHAT WILL I DO?

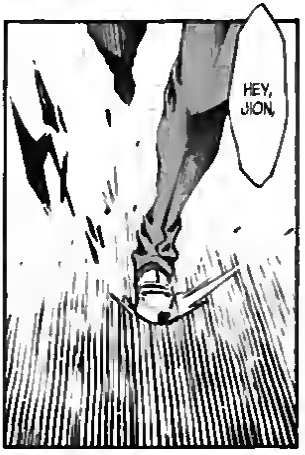

MY TAB...
THIS IS...

AHH. I SEE
.....


THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR CONTINUOUSLY RUNNING AWAY FROM A BUNCH OF THINGS.
WHAT A QUICK FINAL SCENE...

REAL-LY...
ONII-SAN WAS RIGHT..

I'M.. AN IDIOT,
SO I MIGHT HAVE UPSET YOU WITHOUT REALIZING...
I'M SORRY...


HEY, JION,

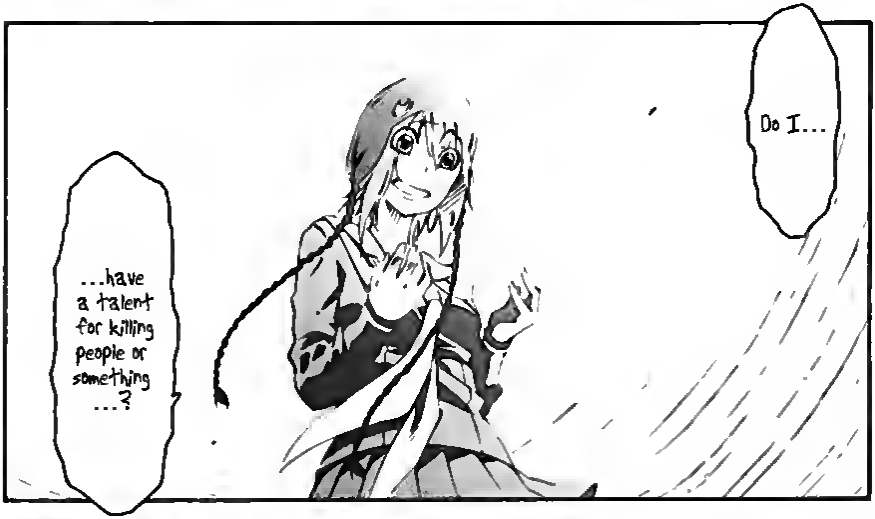
THIS,
...IS MY LAST STOP.

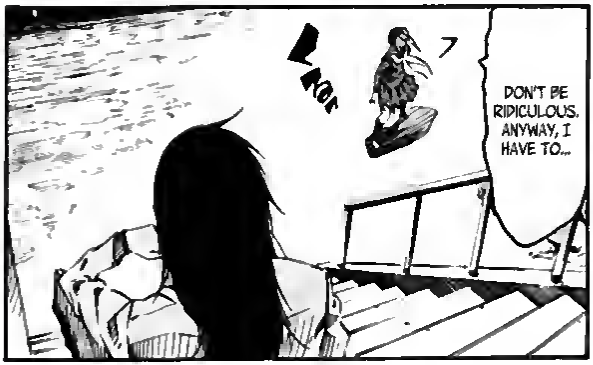
FOR ONE THAT IS LIVING,
THIS IS THE "WORST" THOUGHT.
TO BEGIN WITH, THIS WORLD IS FULL OF THINGS YOU CAN LABEL AS "BAD."
AT ABOUT THE SAME RATE AS BEING CAUGHT BY A TRAFFIC SIGNAL,
PEOPLE WILL END UP MEETING THINGS THAT ARE "BAD."
"Suicidal urge"

PEOPLE WILL SURELY DIE,
BUT HAVING SAID THAT, THERE'S NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO RUSH TOWARD DEATH.
NO MATTER WHAT SORT OF FATE YOU MAY SHOULDER
...NO MATTER WHAT CRIME YOU MAY HAVE COMMITTED,
...THOSE WHO ARE ALIVE, SHOULD LIVE.
THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE.

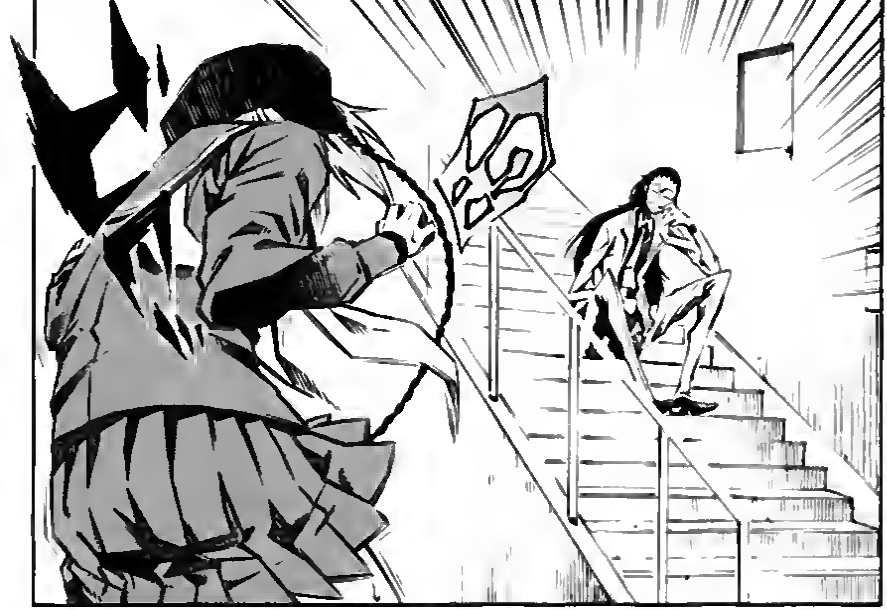
...hold on.
How did Jion end up dead...

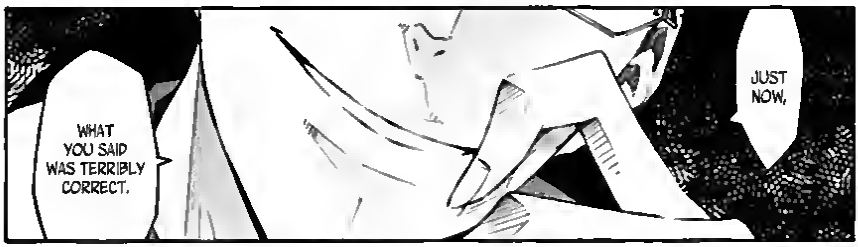
Ha ha...
Ha...

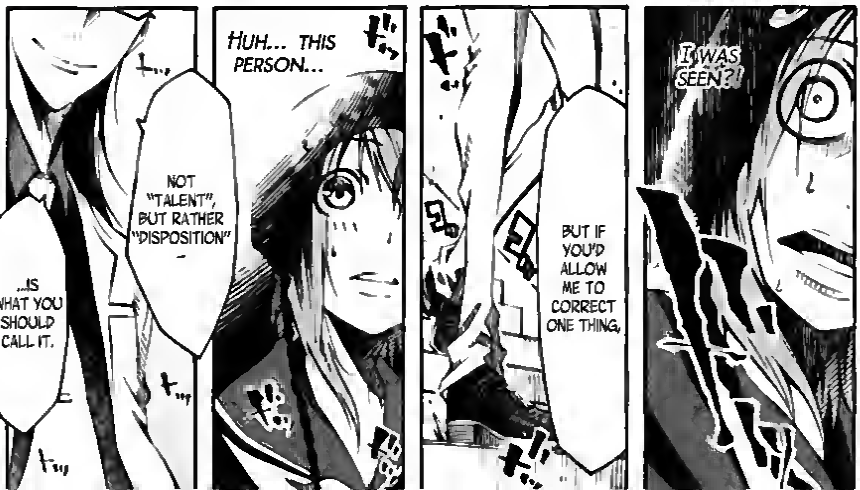

...have a talent for killing people or something ...?
Do I...


KAOR
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. ANYWAY, I HAVE TO...

.....
HAA..




JUST NOW,
WHAT YOU SAID WAS TERRIBLY CORRECT.


I...
HUH... THIS PERSON...
NOT "TALENT", BUT RATHER "DISPOSITION"
...IS WHAT YOU SHOULD CALL IT.
BUT IF YOU'D ALLOW ME TO CORRECT ONE THING,
I WAS SEEN?!

FROM THIS MORNING...
COULD IT BE THAT THIS PERSON IS...
We meet again,
Iori-chan.

A STALKER ?!
TH... THIS IS BAD.
HE FOUND OUT MY NAME SOMEHOW, TOO...
BUT THIS IS REALLY SOMETHING
AND HE HAS SOMETHING ON ME TO TOP IT ALL OFF.
YOU DID WELL TO STOP HIM WITH ONE BLOW USING SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
AND SCISSORS AT THAT...
MY AFFINITY FOR YOU IS WELLING UP.

UWAH-!
UWAH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?!!
WHAT AM I DOING...
U-MM..
...IN-SPECT-ING?
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH IT CARE-LESSLY!
WHY NOT?
WH... WHY...
Well, I'm going to explain the situation to the police, and if anything is changed...
AHH, THAT'S RIGHT. THAT WOULD BE BAD...
-WAIT, THE POLICE?!

HEY, HEY, HEY, HEY, HEY, HEY!
I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY I MIGHT LOOK STUPID ASKING YOU THIS QUESTION, BUT-
YOU ARE NOT PLANNING TO TURN YOURSELF IN, RIGHT?!

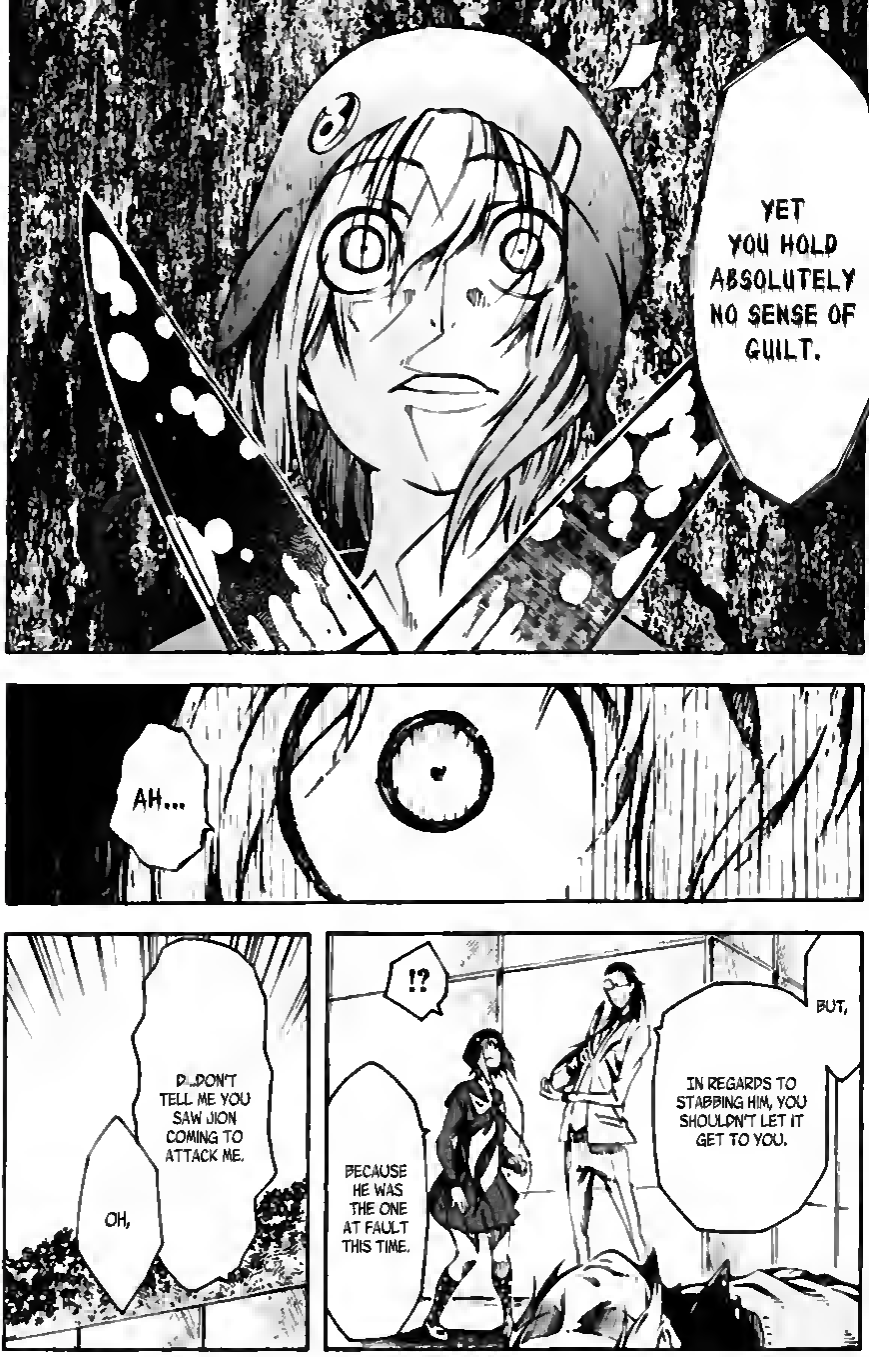
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO
I WILL!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THAT I WOULD?!!

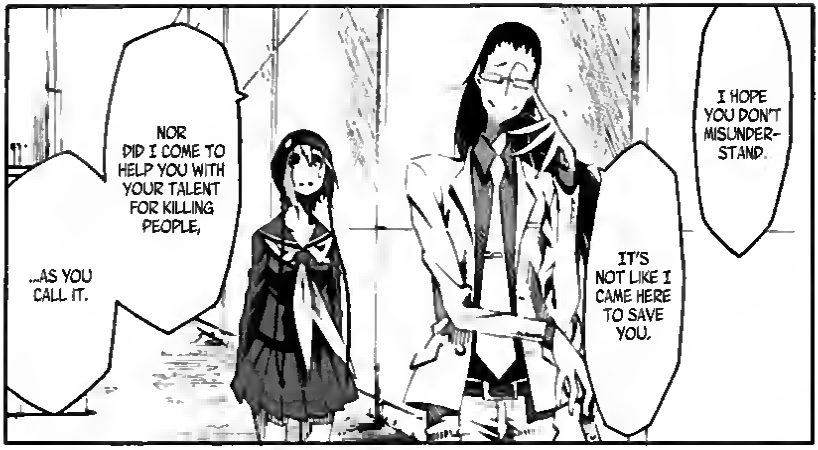
?
...THEN ALL THE MORE REASON YOU SHOULD GIVE UP ON GOING TO THE POLICE.

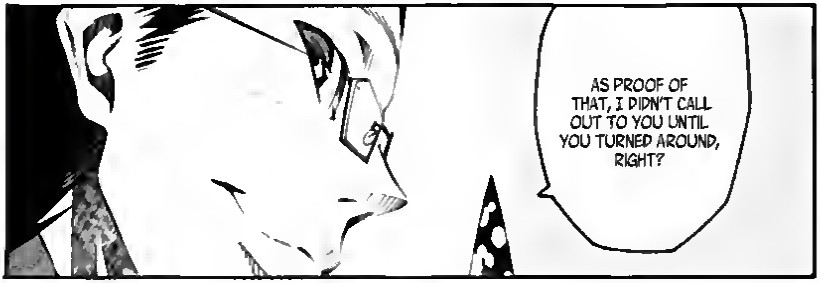
AHH...OF COURSE YOU'VE KILLED.
C... COULD IT BE THAT THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME KILLING SOMEONE?!
NO, I HAVE NOT!
OF COURSE!

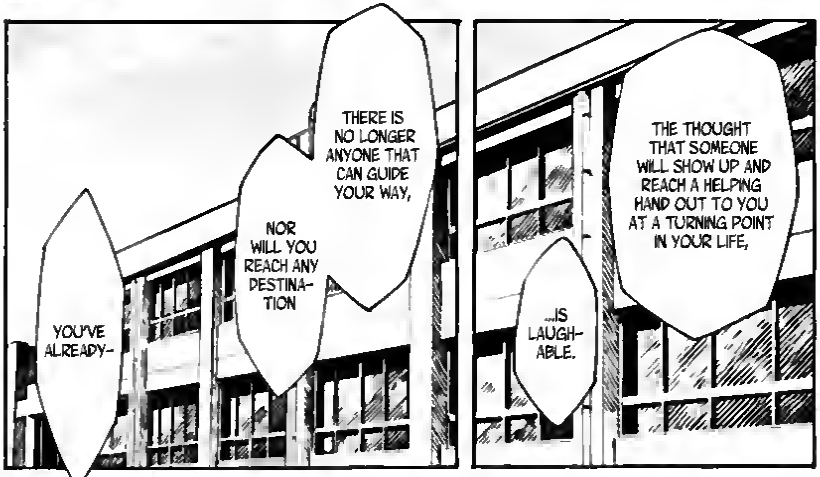
YOU ARE ALREADY,
YOU SHOULD ALSO REFRAIN FROM TALKING TO YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND SCHOOL TEACHERS
...UNABLE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT KILLING WHEN YOU MEET PEOPLE.
WITHOUT A DOUBT, YOU ARE.
A HOMICIDAL MANIAC.

YOU~~~~~
WELL,
YOU'RE A FRESH NEWBORN, THOUGH.
You show up out of nowhere and say such base-less...
BASE-LESS...
BASE-LESS, HUH?
I'M SURE YOU HAVE ALREADY NOTICED THIS FOR YOURSELF.
YOU JUST STABBED A PERSON-


YET YOU HOLD ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF GUILT.
AH...
D...DON'T TELL ME YOU SAW JION COMING TO ATTACK ME.
OH,
!?
BUT,
IN REGARDS TO STABBING HIM, YOU SHOULDN'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONE AT FAULT THIS TIME.


I HOPE YOU DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAME HERE TO SAVE YOU.
NOR DID I COME TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR TALENT FOR KILLING PEOPLE,
...AS YOU CALL IT.


AS PROOF OF THAT, I DIDN'T CALL OUT TO YOU UNTIL YOU TURNED AROUND, RIGHT?


THE THOUGHT THAT SOMEONE WILL SHOW UP AND REACH A HELPING HAND OUT TO YOU AT A TURNING POINT IN YOUR LIFE,
...IS LAUGH-ABLE.
THERE IS NO LONGER ANYONE THAT CAN GUIDE YOUR WAY,
NOR WILL YOU REACH ANY DESTINA-TION
YOU'VE ALREADY-

FALLEN FROM YOUR PATH.
RIGHT
THAT'S RIGHT...
.....
NO,
I WILL SAY IT ONCE MORE
DESPITE THAT, YOU-
ZO
NOW THAT I'VE KILLED JION, I'M THE BAD GUY...

...ARE NOT "BAD?"

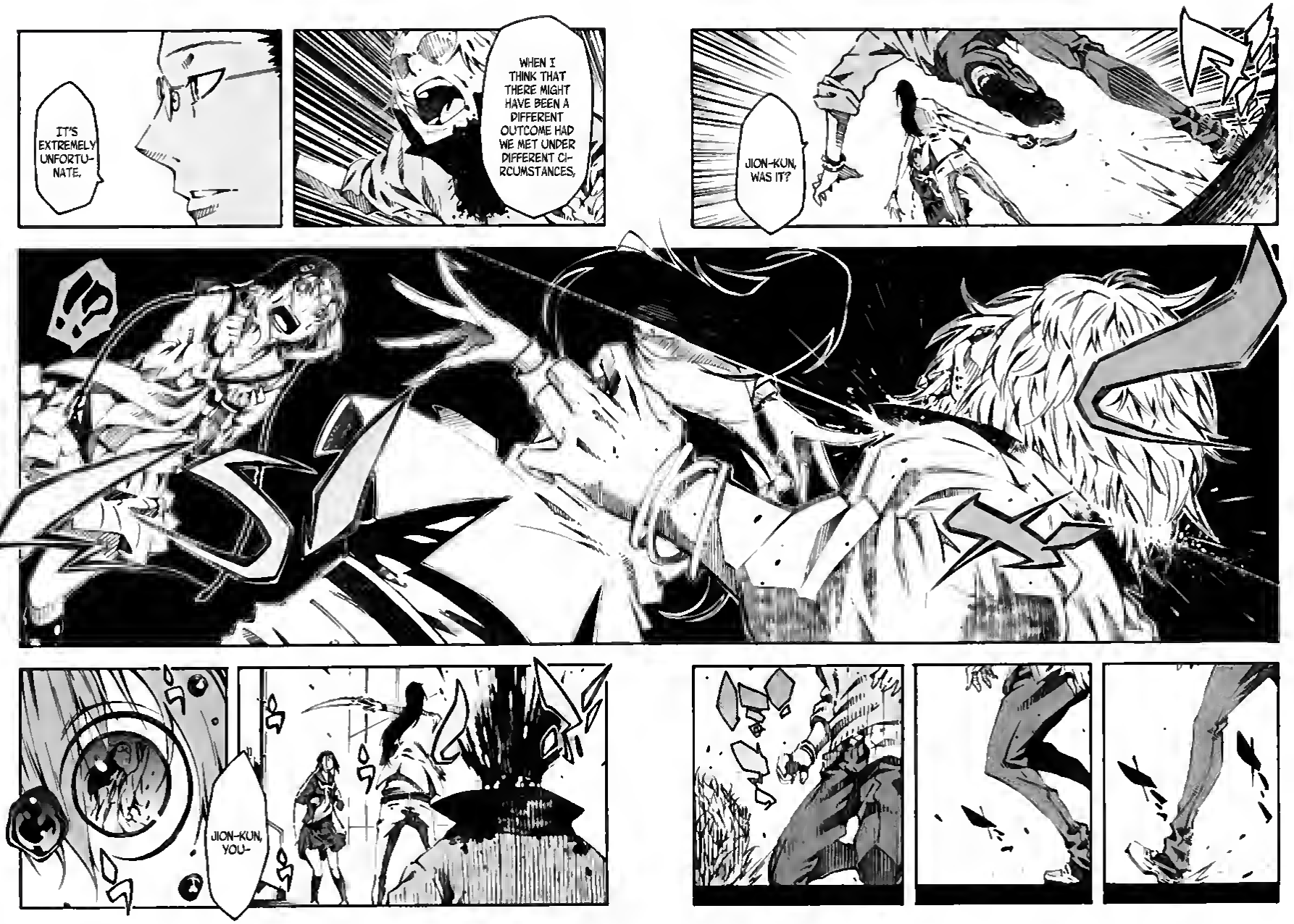
BE-HOLD!
HE RECEIVED A FATAL WOUND TO HIS NECK, AND IS WELL ON HIS WAY TOWARD DEATH, AND STILL,
HE STANDS, AND CLINGS TO THE IDEA THAT HE MUST KILL HIS TARGET!
IF YOU DON'T CALL THIS "BAD," THEN WHAT?!
HII!
SO HE'S THE SAME AS THE GROUP IN THE TRAIN AND THE GUYS FROM THIS MORNING.
I DO SYMPATHIZE, BUT...

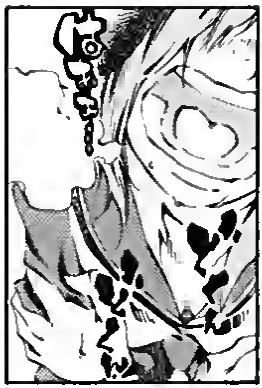
I WON'T HOLD BACK.
Now.
Let's leave the lecture regarding "evil" at that.
I'm sure you're all tired of waiting anyway.
Shall we move on to the exam?

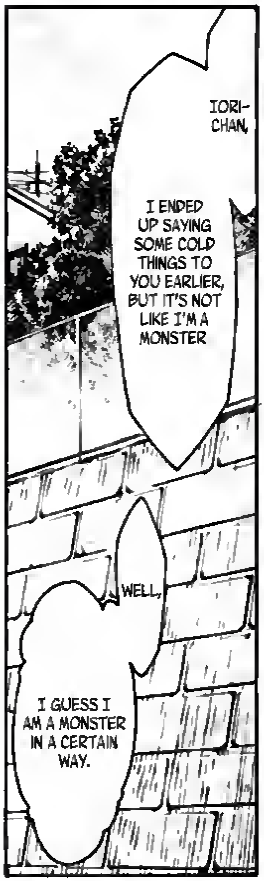
ZERO...
WHOOPS.
LET ME START OVER.
WRONG ONE.
NOW THEN, LET US BEGIN-

Zero-
saki.

NOW THEN,


IT'S EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE.
WHEN I THINK THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT OUTCOME HAD WE MET UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES,
JION-KUN, WAS IT?
JION-KUN, YOU-


Iori-chan?


Iori-chan,
I ended up saying some cold things to you earlier, but it's not like I'm a monster
Well,
I guess I am a monster in a certain way.

Fail.

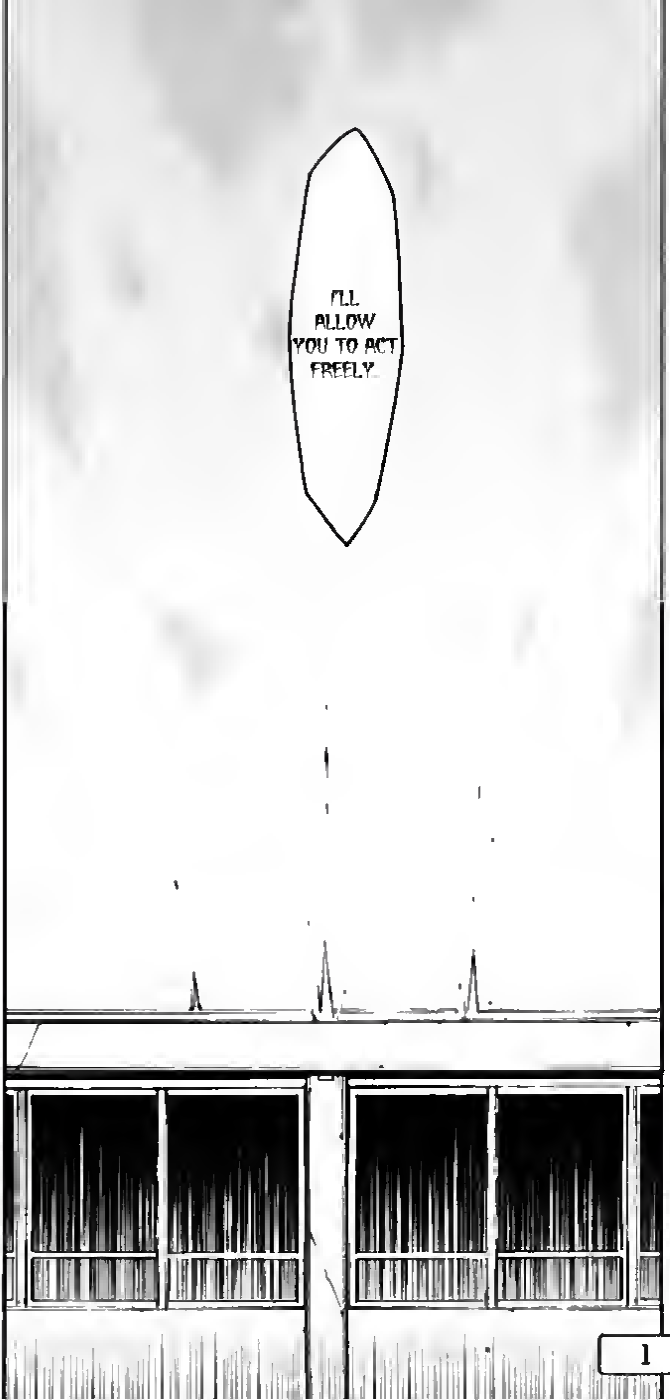
FOR BECOMING A NEWBORN.
LET ME OFFER YOU A PROPOSAL.
My name is Zerozaki Soushi.
AHH, I SEE...
THIS PERSON WASN'T A STALKER...
SO, IORI-CHAN,

Why don't you be my little sister?
HE WAS JUST SOME pervert...

ARE THOSE THE HUGE SCISSORS HE'S NICKNAMED FOR?
HEE...
The "Mind Render?"
AND JUST LIKE YOU SAID, HE'S REALLY SOMETHING, NII-SAN.
LOOKS LIKE HE WAS THE REAL ZEROZAKI AFTER ALL.
ONCE MORE, I WILL-
WITH THE "GREATEST EVIL" AS OUR OPPONENT, THIS MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR US HANDLE.
.....
WHAT SHOULD WE DO AFTER THIS?
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT GIRL IS INVOLVED, TOO.

Pay "her" a visit.
GREATEST EVIL... IS IT?
AS CAUTIOUS AS EVER.
BUT SINCE I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS GREATEST EVIL,
I THINK I'LL GO MAKE MY MOVE AHEAD OF YOU, NII-SAN.

ALSO, WHILE I'M AT IT, TOKI NO MIYA-SAN,
MAYBE I'LL HAVE YOU GIVE ME A HAND WITH MY PERFORMANCE
I WOULDN'T MIND.
AS LONG AS I GET WHAT'S COMING TO ME... RIGHT?
..SO SHE SAYS, IT'S OKAY, RIGHT,
NII-SAN?
.....
VERY WELL.


I'LL
ALLOW
YOU TO ACT
FREELY.

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by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka

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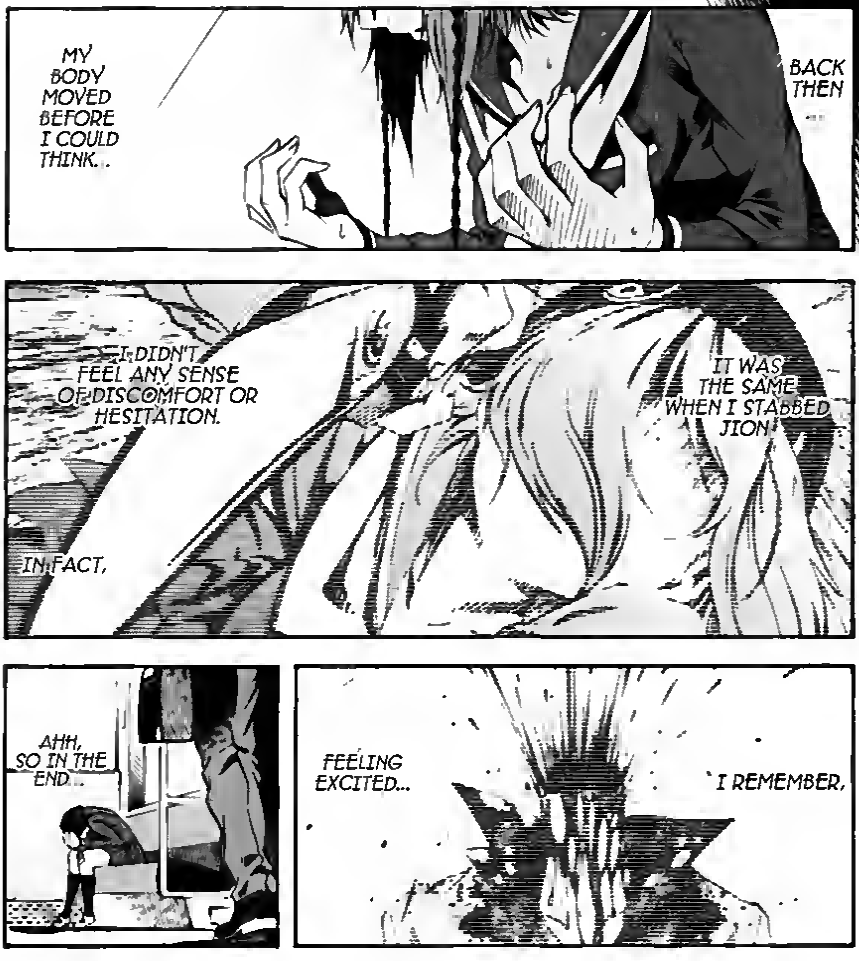
My, my...
What a frightfully wild horse
Seeing how she was able to escape from me barehanded
It would be too kind to call her a homicidal maniac
She is already...
QUESTION 2

A homicidal monster...

HAA..
I ENDED UP RUNNING AWAY WITHOUT THINKING, BUT..
WHAT WAS THE DEAL WITH THAT PERSON...?


MY BODY MOVED BEFORE I COULD THINK..
BACK THEN...
I DIDN'T FEEL ANY SENSE OF DISCOMFORT OR HESITATION.
IN FACT,
IT WAS THE SAME WHEN I STABBED JION!
AHH, SO IN THE END...
FEELING EXCITED...
I REMEMBER,

HAS IT ALL CAUGHT UP WITH ME?

THUMP

WHEN YOU MEET WITH PEOPLE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT KILLING.

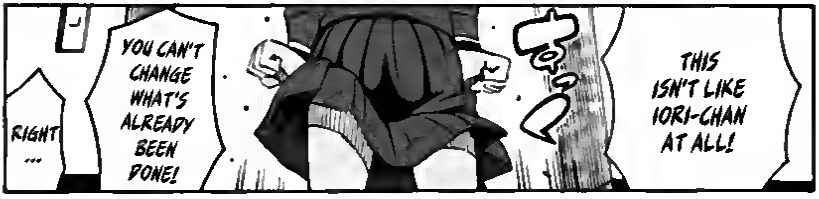
WITHOUT A DOUBT, YOU ARE...

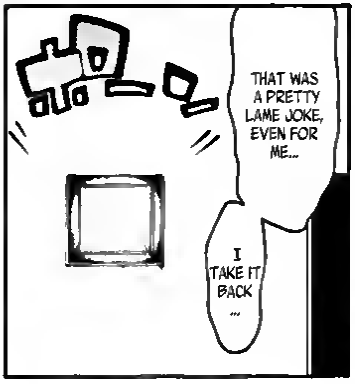
?
!!
A HO-
MICIDAL
MANIAC!
I... I...
JUST NOW, WHAT...

YOU'RE WRONG.
YOU'RE WRONG.
THERE'S NO WAY...
...THAT'S TRUE.

.....
IT'S GOOD THAT I'M BACK, BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO...
ぺぽ
ぺぽ
.....
UH...
UHH

Ngaa!


THIS ISN'T LIKE IORI-CHAN AT ALL!
YOU CAN'T CHANGE WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE!
RIGHT ...


THAT WAS A PRETTY LAME JOKE, EVEN FOR ME...
I TAKE IT BACK ...

Positive thinking!
LET ME TRUST IN MY FAMILY'S LOVE AND TELL THEM THE TRUTH!

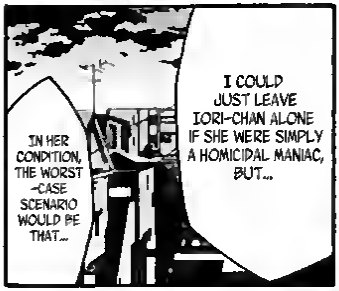
ガチャ
I'M HOME!
……
無桐
mutoh
……

HURRY AND EAT YOUR FOOD.
EH...
AH... WELL...
WHAT'S WRONG IORI?
WHY ARE YOU YELLING LIKE THAT?
UMM...
THE TRUTH IS..
I...
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU...
Y-
U-
YES?!
IORI.
I... I stabbed-
I...

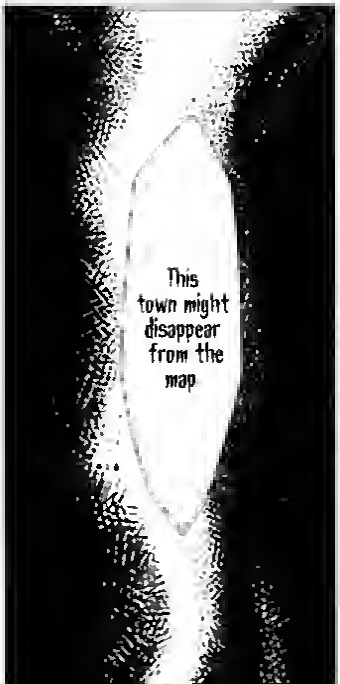
!!
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS, TOO.
SIT DOWN.
C- COULD IT BE..?
HAVE THE POLICE ALREADY CONTACTED THEM?
Wh-
What is it ...?
.....
IORI...
YOU-
ゴト...

I hear you're a Zerozaki!
!?
EH?

WHY...?
GUH...


IN HER CONDITION, THE WORST -CASE SCENARIO WOULD BE THAT...
I COULD JUST LEAVE IORI-CHAN ALONE IF SHE WERE SIMPLY A HOMICIDAL MANIAC, BUT...

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE PLACE.


This town might disappear from the map

Besides,
It seems like I've been unwittingly placed on a stage myself

Fufufu
It's an older brother's responsibility to look after his little sister
As the eldest brother of the Zero-zaki
I just can't leave this be

Guh.
Kah...
...O-
Onii... san ...?

Onee-san...
Dad...
Mo... m...
THIS ISN'T ..REAL, RIGHT ...?
THIS ...
.....
?
TEA.. RS?

Stop!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!

I SAID STOP!!
.....

Eh?
HOLD ON, HOLD ON, IORI-SAN?!

WHY ARE YOU STANDING THERE, JUST WAITING TO DIE?!

ガチャ
……

SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S WITH HIM?!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE ALREADY!
なっ~!?
EVERY TIME HE SEES ME...
IT'S ALWAYS "DON'T RUN AWAY".
YOU GUYS WERE AT IT AGAIN?
YOU TWO REALLY GET ALONG.
NO, WE DON'T.
ONII-SAN HATES ME!
.....
ISN'T IT THE EXACT OPPOSITE ?
!?

YOU KNOW, KENGO,
HE LOVES HIS LITTLE SISTER SO MUCH, HE CAN'T HELP IT.
IF HE REALLY HATED YOU, HE WOULDN'T EVEN TALK TO YOU.
.....
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY HE WANTS YOU TO BECOME A PERSON WHO CAN MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS.
IT IS.
AFTER ALL...
IS THAT HOW IT IS...?

Kengo's the one who worries about you the most.
AHH... REALLY NOW...

YOU MADE MY DRAMATIC ENTRANCE GO TO WASTE!
I EVEN WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF SETTING THE TABLE...
.....
HEY, YOU-
.....
ARE YOU LISTENING, IORI-SAN ?!

What's with those eyes?
I'M SURE THIS IS AN EVERYDAY THING FOR ALL OF YOU.
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE A NORMAL...
HAA...
.....
HAA...
I did think it was strange that you were living a proper life in a place like this, but...
Could it be, that you...

THERE IT IS AGAIN
Are you serious ...?!
Haa...
Are not...
Haa...
...a Zero-zaki?
ZERO-ZAKI...

Are you Fucking kidding me?!
I WAS WRONG FOR RELYING ON FUCKING TOKI NO MIYA'S FUCKING DOLLS!
HA...
AH!
ZERO-ZAKI
DOLLS ?
TOKI NO MIYA
WHAT IS THIS PERSON SAYING ?

I'M SORRY
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION
LOOKS LIKE I WAS MISTAKEN
I'LL BE HEADING BACK HOME NOW
WHAT IS THAT..?

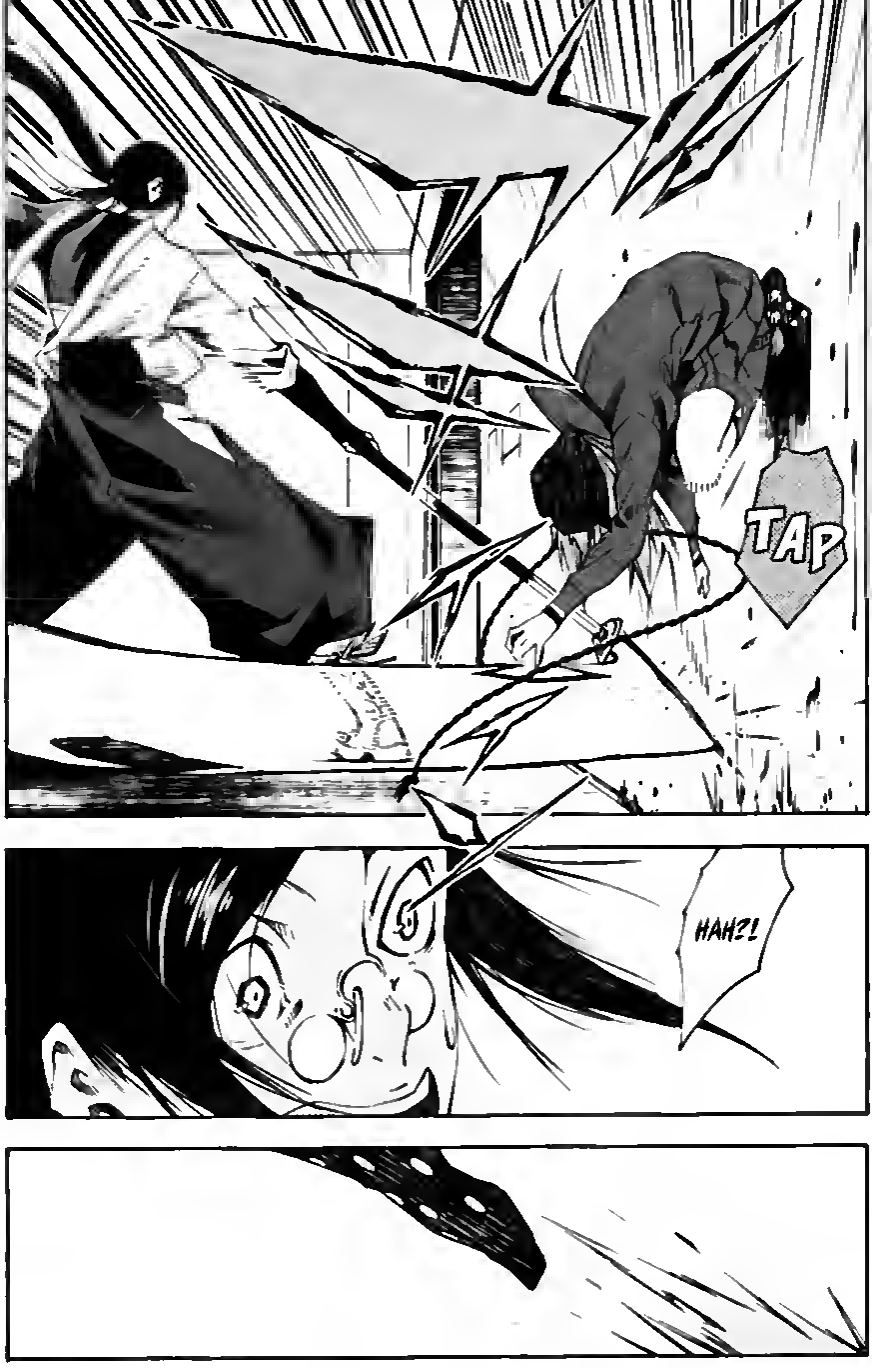
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ?!
WHAT THE HELL IS A ZERO-ZAKI?!
AND FOR STARTERS, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH BY DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
.....
ZERO-ZAKI
Stole what was precious to us
And so-

This time around, we'll be the ones doing the stealing
WELL...
IT SEEMS LIKE NII-SAN HAS OTHER MOTIVES TOO.
BUT IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.
DA
for some-thing like that...
"SOME-THING LIKE THAT"?
That's... right.

Aren't I nice?
HAA.
I'm not a monster though.
THOSE WHO WERE PRECIOUS TO YOU, WERE USED AND KILLED, OVER "SOMETHING LIKE THAT".
I'll let you die here too, along with them.
WHAT IS THIS PERSON SAYING ...?
HAA.

HAA AA...
HA AAA ...

GOOD-BYE.
THIS PERSON...
I WANT TO KILL HIM!
Well, this is where we part.
I want to kill him...


TAP
HAH?!

IS POINT-LESS!
HIDING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT ...

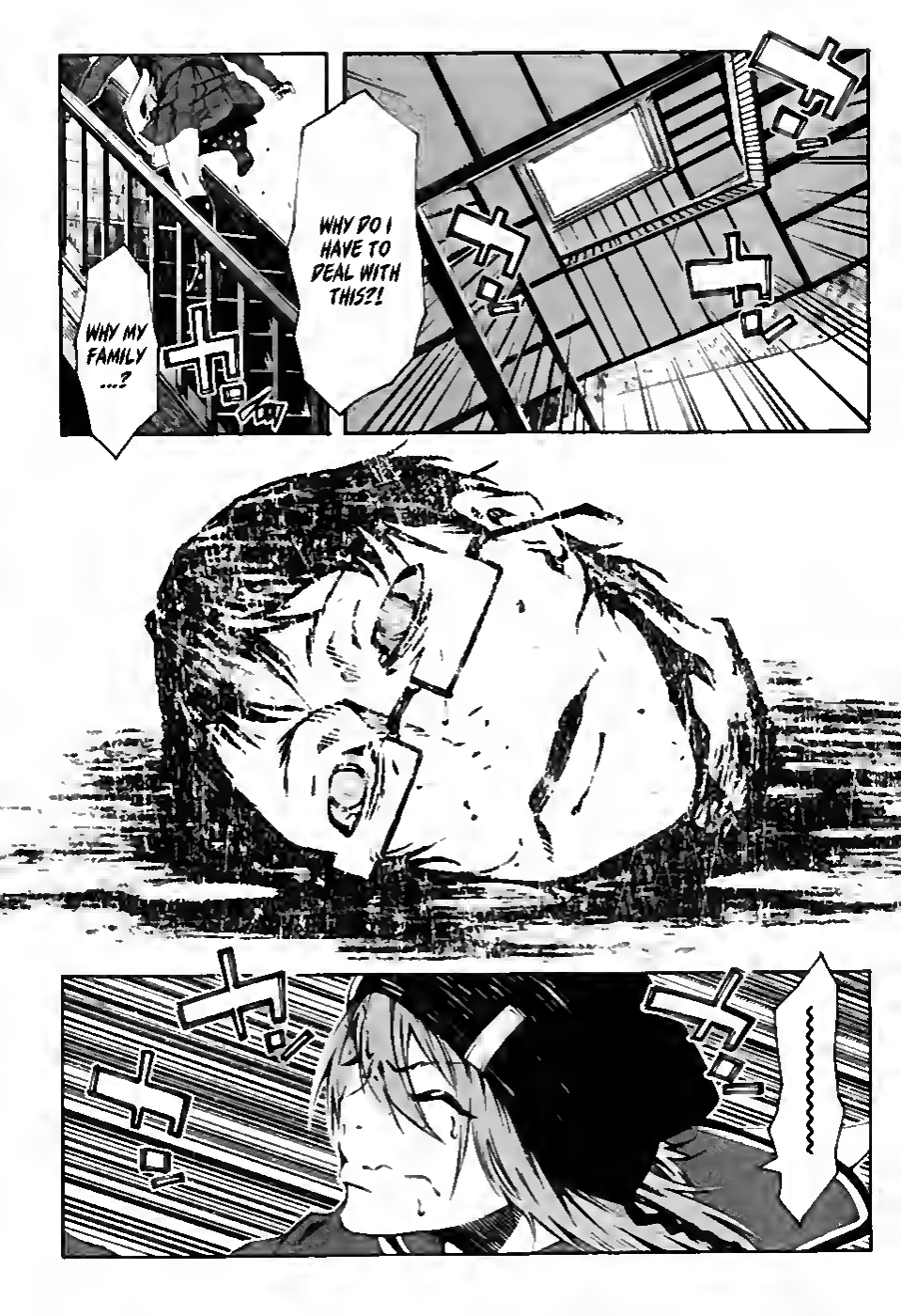
...YOU WON'T GET TO ME WITH THAT REA-
BUT ...
WHEN DID SHE ...?
A FORK ?!
SHE THREW IT..!
!!

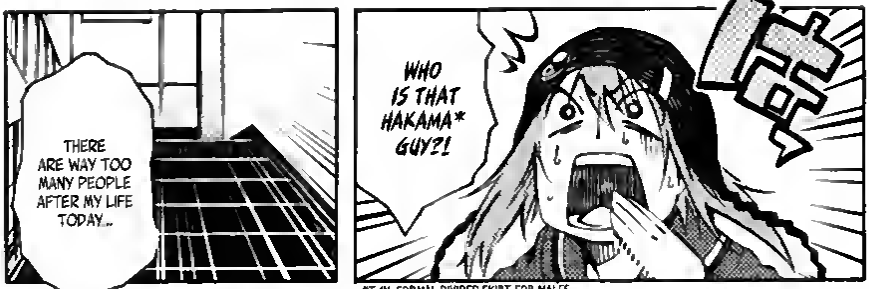
OH.
OH.
OH.
OH.
AHH..!

Now you've done it.
Ha...
Haa...
Haa...
IORI-SAN...

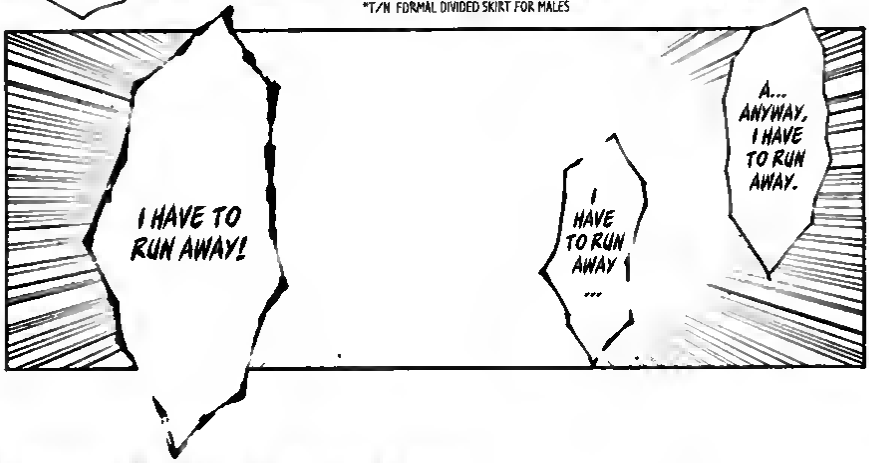
HURRY!
HURRY!

AHHH!
!!


WHY DO I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS?!
WHY MY FAMILY ...?

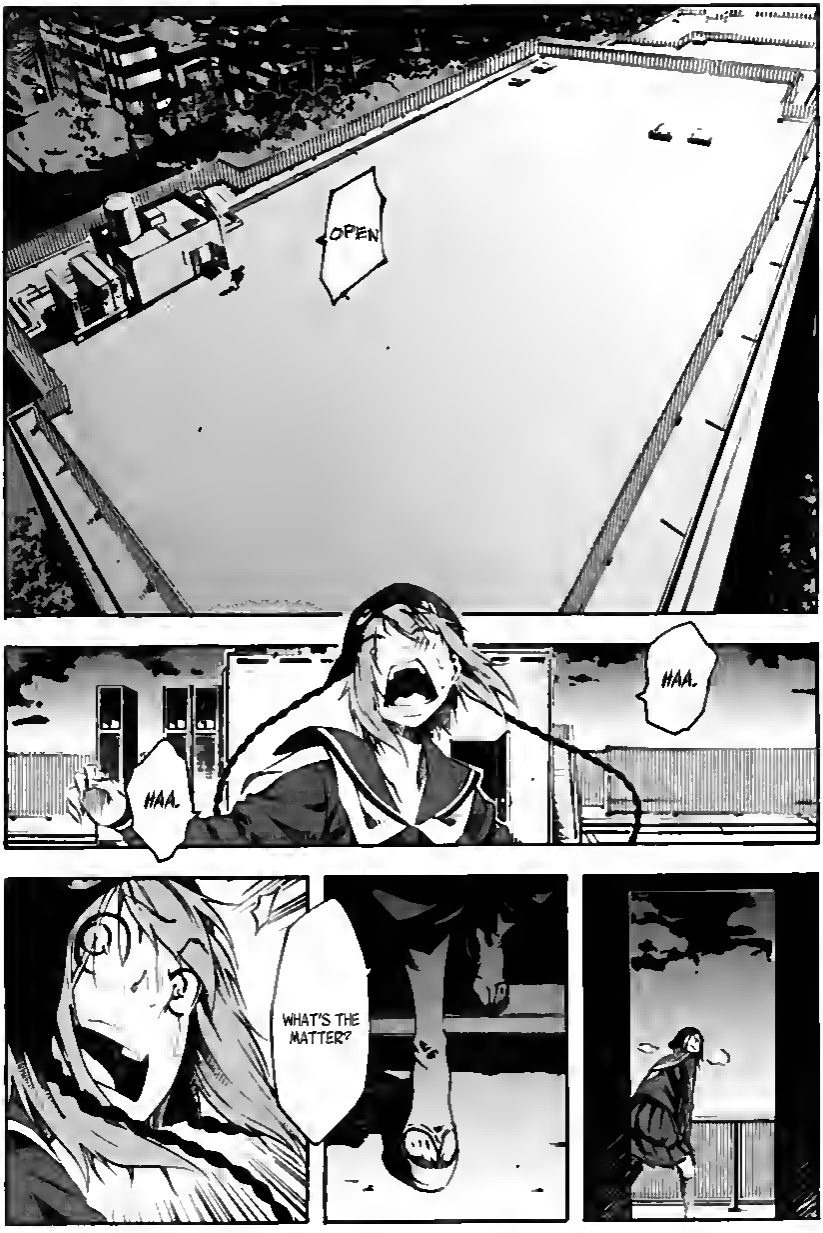


*T/N FORMAL DIVIDED SKIRT FOR MALES

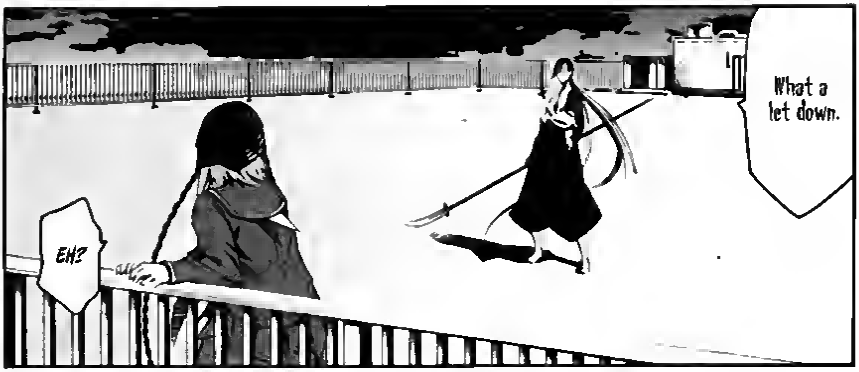


"WHEN YOU MEET WITH PEOPLE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT KILLING."
I WAS JUST PROTECTING MYSELF!
"EVENTUALLY, YOU'LL COME TO A DEAD END, AND YOUR ONLY OPTION WILL BE TO STRAY FROM YOUR PATH."
BECAUSE I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP RUNNING. IF I DON'T I'LL BE CAUGHT!
"YOU HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY RUNNING AWAY, EVER SINCE YOU WERE BORN."

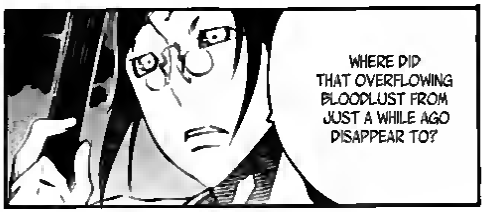
I'VE NEVER FELT THAT I WANTED TO KILL ANYONE UNTIL NOW. NOT EVEN ONCE!
"I WANT TO KILL HIM... I WANT TO KILL THIS PERSON"
YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU'RE WRONG!
"YOU HAVE ALREADY...
STRAYED FROM YOUR PATH!"


OPEN
HAA.
HAA.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I DON'T MIND YOU KNOW -
IF YOU WANT TO KEPT RUNNING,
ARE YOU DONE RUNNING?
IT'S ALL OR NO-THING.
ARE YOU GOING TO JUMP?
.....


What a let down.
EH?

B-Blood-lust?
A... about that...


WHERE DID THAT OVERFLOWING BLOODLUST FROM JUST A WHILE AGO DISAPPEAR TO?

SIGH-
HEY!

I really don't get it...

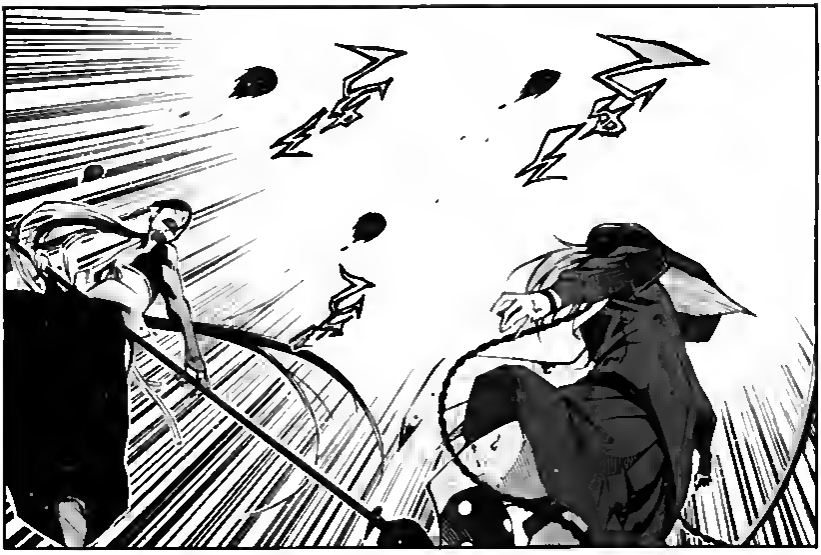
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I'M JUST A CUTE LITTLE HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL

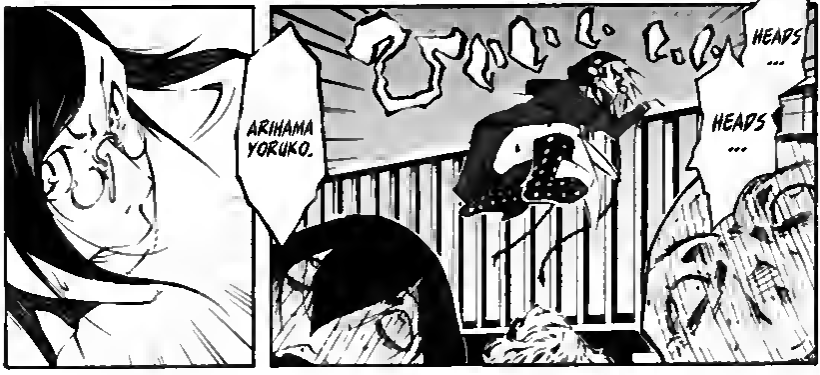
You seem harmless... like an ordinary person;
yet, you attack with a fearful amount of blood-lust.
.....
And then, you try to casually joke around with the person who murdered your family...
You're all over the place.
And so... just now...
I've come up with a hypothesis.
I'm not all that knowledge-able about this.
So I don't know if it's a transformation or an awakening but...
It's like you're a Zerozaki and you're not.
Iori-san,you...

Becoming a Zerozaki.
Is what I'm guessing is going on here...
!?
Unlike my brother, I'm not the cautious type, but...
IN THIS CASE-

I SHOULD PROBABLY KILL YOU AFTER ALL.

HAIR?
?
.....
HUH?!
AHH?!




ARIHAMA YORUKO.
HEADS ...
HEADS ...

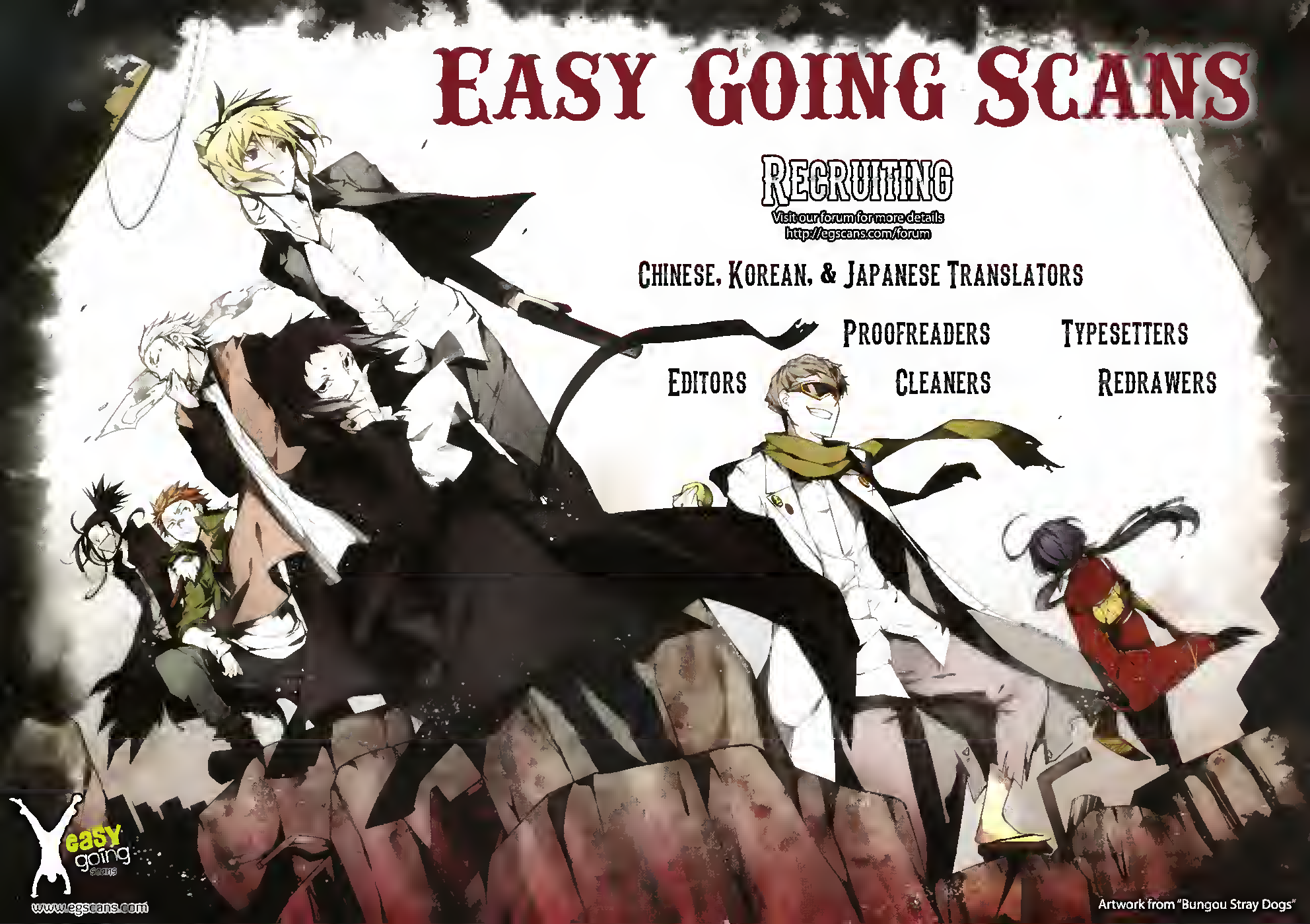
MASAGUCHI HIROAKI.
KAJINO MADOKA
KITADA KURAHIKO.
IKEHASHI RIKUYUKI
KOUZUKI MAYUMI.
FAIL!
ALL OF THEM ...
Sorry to keep you waiting.
tori-chan...

I came to save you!

Mind Render...
FUFUFU

You there, the young halberd wielder.
I don't know who you are...
But in order to protect my new little sister...
Zerozaki's eldest son, Zerozaki Soushiki,
Will be facing you.

QUESTION 2 END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ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka

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Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken v1 c3

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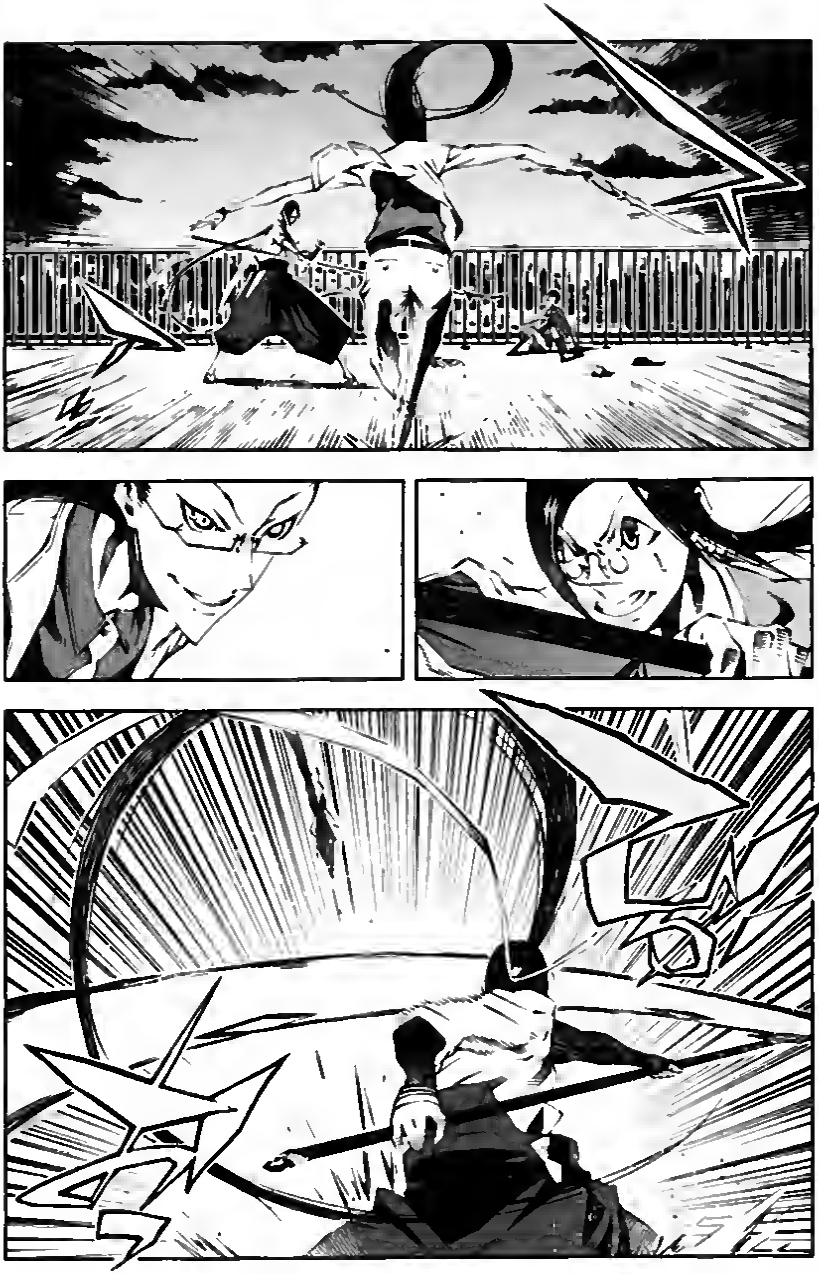


You can relax now, Iori-chan.
Your onii-chan...
HAS COME TO SAVE YOU!
Gyaaah!!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING MY "ONII-CHAN"?!
ACTUALLY, WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?!

BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY...
THIS IS ALL THE WORK OF SIBLING LOVE
Fufu
I SAW YOUR ADDRESS ON THE STUDENT ID I SWIPED FROM YOU, IORI-CHAN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LOVE?!
PLEASE STOP ACTING SO SMUG ABOUT STEALING!
AN OLDER BROTHER IS CAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING FOR HIS DEAR LITTLE SISTER
WHICH MEANS, THAT TIME WHEN WE FIRST MET...
AH...
SO THAT'S HOW YOU FOUND OUT MY NAME...

COULD I HAVE YOU PUT A LID ON THIS WORTHLESS SIBLING COMEDY ACT OF YOURS, RIGHT NOW?
That sounds like you lot... A truly repulsive way of thinking.
HA HA ...
I NOTICED YOU SAID NEW LITTLE SISTER EARLIER.
Not yet...?
You know, the thing we call "siblings" ...
Not yet.
L-LIKE I SAID, I'M NOT HIS LITTLE SISTER!

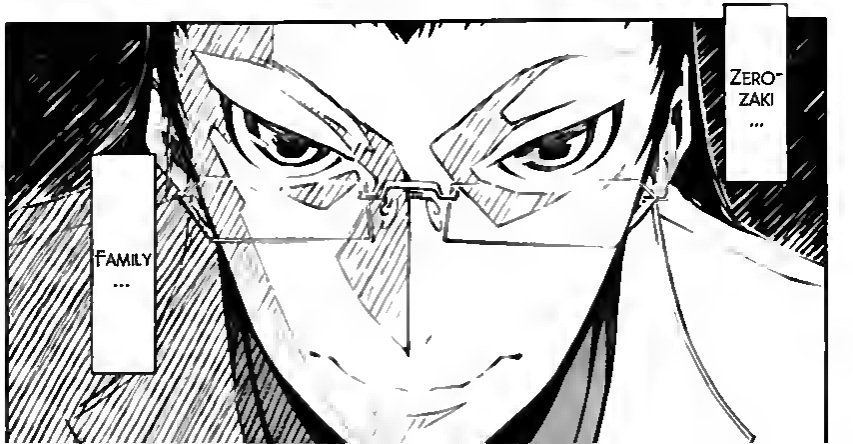
...ISN'T SOME-THING YOU CAN ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM SO EASILY!
!!

ACK!
AHH!
IT'S ALL CLEAR TO ME NOW!
I see...
Finally...

MIND RENDER-SAN,
YOU...

We're in the middle of inviting Iori-san to be a part of the Zerozaki family!
I'm assuming that's what was happening right now.

!?

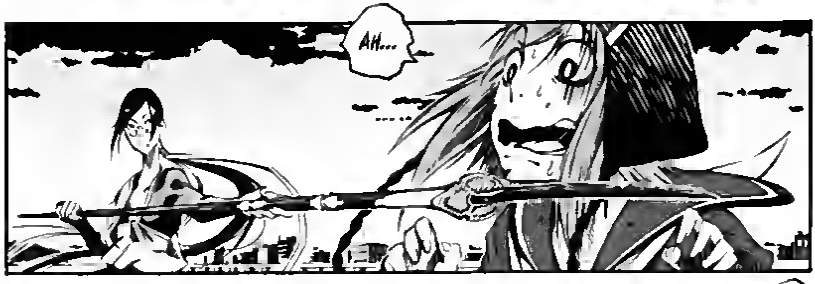

ZERO-ZAKI ...
FAMILY ...

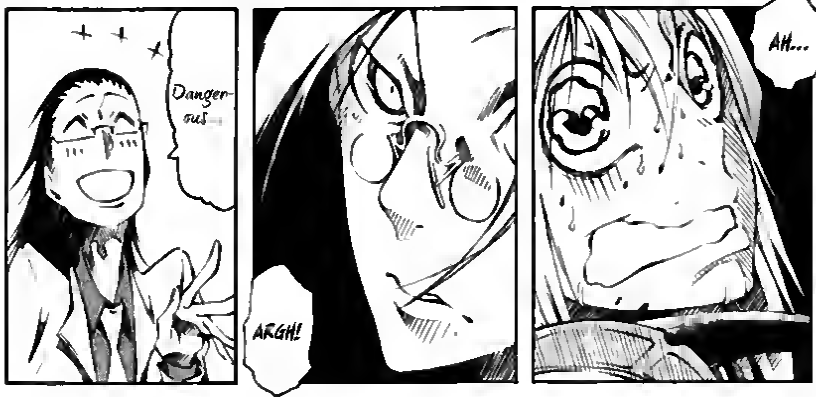
AGAIN WITH THAT ...
AND THAT TIME ...
BACK THEN, TOO ...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ZEROZAKI ...!
Isn't this a good opportunity?
Why don't you tell Iori-san about it?
Iori-chan..
AH, YES.
THE "ZEROZAKI"...
.....

...are a group of homicidal monskers.
Meaning, a family of homicidal monskers!

A family of homicidal monsters...?
H...
!
YOU'RE A FAMILY THAT KILLS PEOPLE?
DOES THAT MEAN...
THEY ARE NOT A FAMILY THAT KILLS PEOPLE.
BUT IT'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE.
I GUESS THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLE TOO..
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE OPPOSITE ...?
!?
HA HA HA HA !!

BUT A GROUP OF HOMICIDAL MANIACS WHO HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER TO CREATE A FAMILY!
Is... is that what he meant by that...?
WON'T YOU BECOME MY LITTLE SISTER?
I'M GOING TO HEAD BACK!
AHH... IORI-CHAN.
That spot's a bit...
THIS ISN'T FUNNY.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ZEROZAKI, OR HOMICIDAL MANIACS, SO LEAVE ME OUT OF IT!


AH...

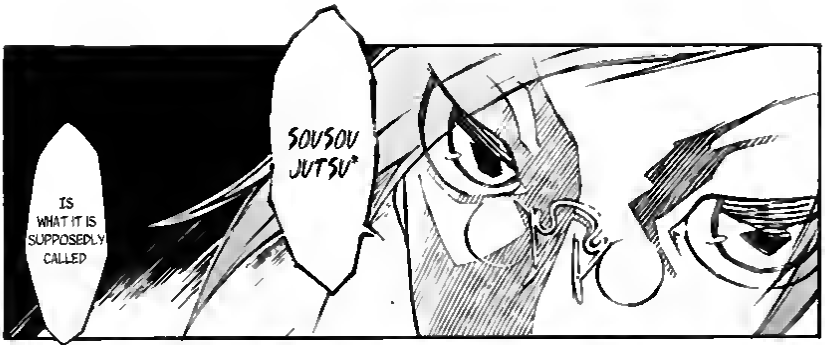

Danger-
ous
ARGH!
AH...

I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE ALSO...
LISTEN, IORI-SAN.
.....
...gone far past the point of no return!

AND TO BEGIN WITH, WHERE WERE YOU PLANNING TO HEAD BACK TO?
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A FAMILY ANYMORE
WHO DO YOU THINK IS TO BLAME FOR THAT ?!!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO MURDERED MY FAMILY?!!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT...
ALTHOUGH YOU ONLY STOOD ON THE BRINK OF IT; HAD YOU NOT BEEN A ZEROZAKI, YOUR FAMILY WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DIE.
Not to mention ...

.... they wouldn't have been used as puppets
P...
PUPPETS...?
TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
THE OWNERS OF THESE FRESHLY SEVERED HEADS, AND YOUR FAMILY, ALL OF THEM-
ABOUT THAT, IORI-CHAN,

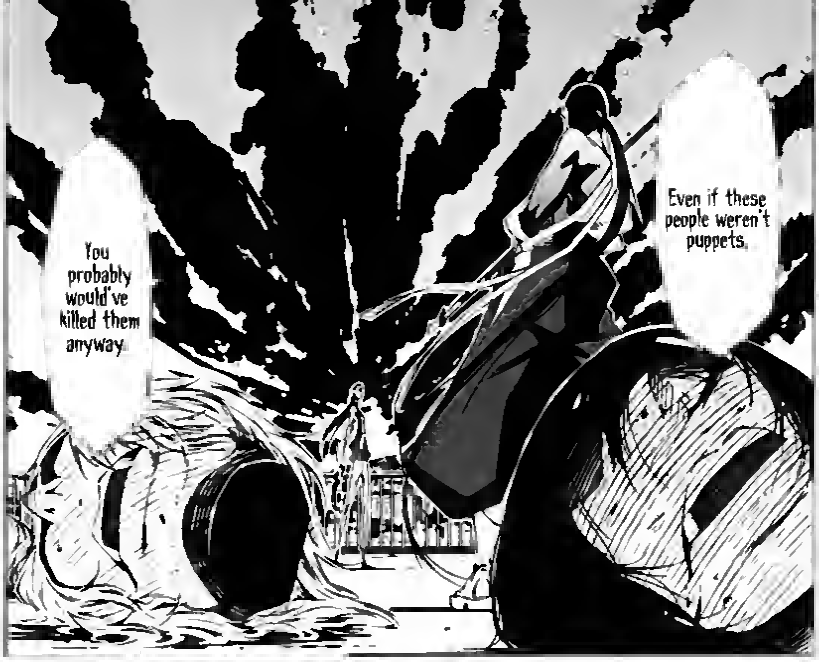
That's what happened.
We're brainwashed.
Brain... washed...
!?
NO
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
TH– THEN, IF WE UNDID THE BRAIN-WASHING,
NO ONE WOULD'VE HAD TO DIE, RIGHT?!



TL: THOUGHT MANIPULATION TECHNIQUE

What it does, is destroy one's values, reason, common sense, good sense, and quite literally,
Turns you into the spell caster's puppet.
And the moment you turn into a puppet,
You lose everything that was once precious to you.

MY GOOD-NESS ...
No ...
YOU FORCE YOUR-SELF INSIDE PEOPLE,
AND STEAL WHAT MAKES THEM HUMAN
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW EVIL ONE CAN BE.
THOSE WORDS ...
I'LL THROW THEM RIGHT BACK AT YOU.

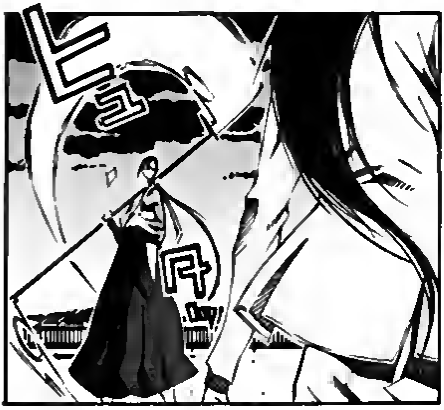

Even if these people weren't puppets,
You probably would've killed them anyway.

Fufu.
EVEN I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH THEM.
BUT...

Whether I kill them or not is a completely different issue.
.....
Zerozaki... You guys,

.....

BUT, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE A PUPPET YOURSELF.
YOUR NAME...
DO YOU MIND SHARING IT?


ドュ

ARE TRULY EVIL.

Second son of the 3 Sawarabi siblings.
I am the naginata-wielder, Sawarabi Naguma.
Nice to meet you

A GROUP OF HOMICIDAL MONSTERS:

"THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY"

FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE NO COMMON CHARACTERISTICS.

FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE NO RULES TO ABIDE BY.

FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE NO RESTRICTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO DESTRUCTION.

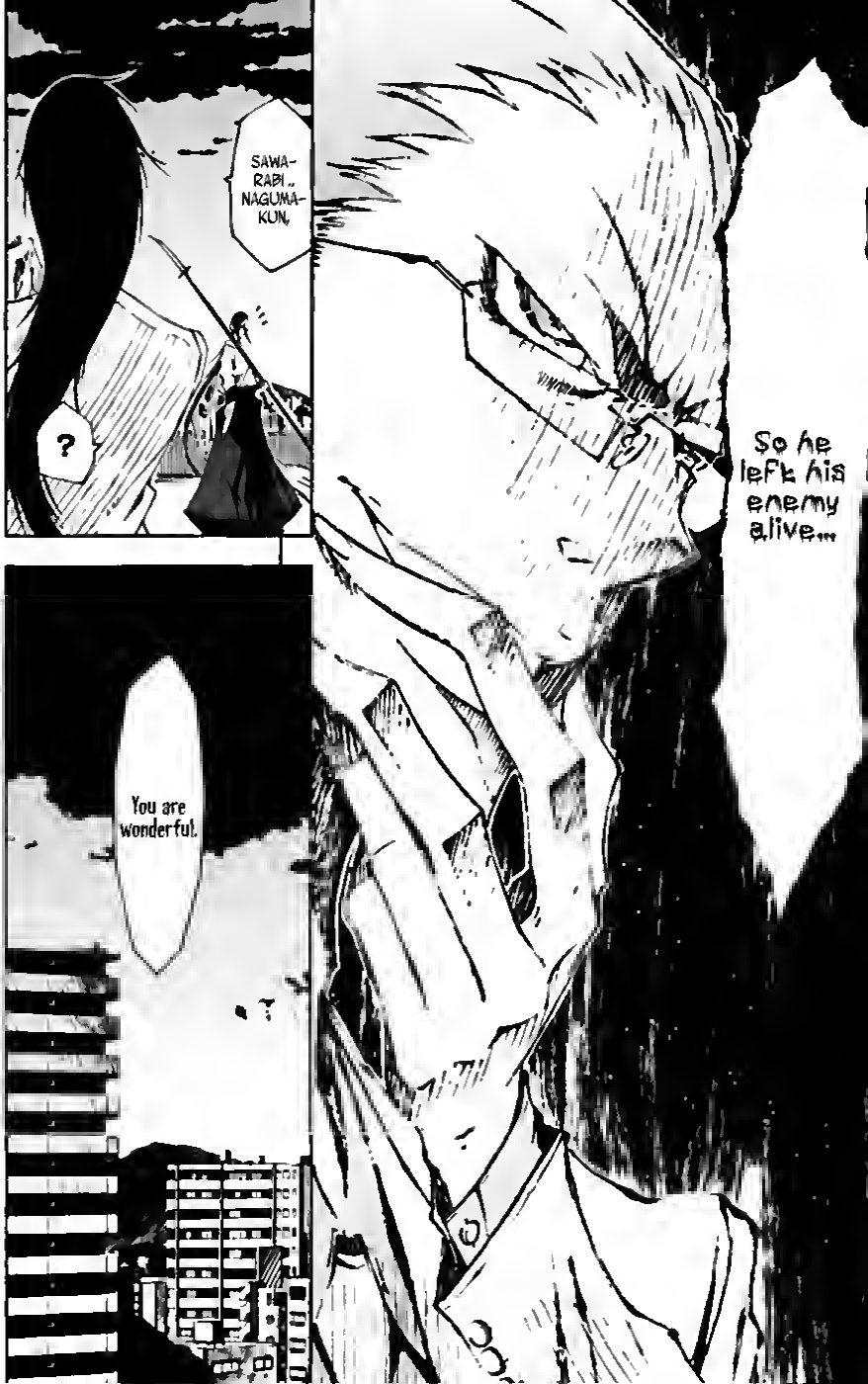
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN SAY FOR SURE.

ANYONE WHO CAUSES HARM TO THE FAMILY IS MASSACRED.

!!
Was murdered by a Zero-zaki...
HMM...

YOU'VE PIQUED MY INTEREST A BIT.
THAT ZERO-ZAKI..
WHAT TYPE OF HOMICIDAL MONSTER WERE THEY?
HAH!
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW
I EVEN WENT AS FAR AS TO SACRIFICE MY PRINCIPLES AND USE PUPPETS, BUT I STILL CAN'T FIND HIM.
DESPITE HOW WELL-KNOWN YOU ZEROZAKI ARE, YOUR GROUP IS SHROUDED IN TOO MUCH SECRECY.
On his face.
BUT... RIGHT.
IF YOU WANT A CHARA-CTERISTIC, THERE WAS ONE...

There was a large tattoo.
That boy...
I SEE...
THIS SITU-ATION...
I GUESS THIS IS A RESULT OF MY LITTLE BROTHER'S FAILURE.
A HOMICIDAL MONSTER WITH A TATTOO ON HIS FACE...?


SAWA-
RABI..
NAGUMA-
KUN.
?
So he left his enemy alive...
You are wonderful.

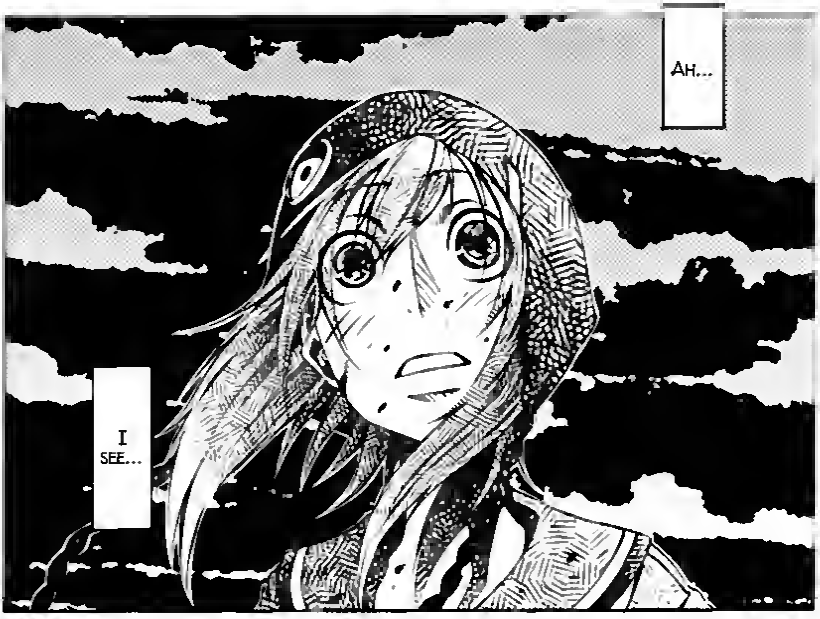
YOU THREW AWAY YOUR PRINCIPLES AND POSITION AS A HITMAN,
AND YOU TOOK ON THE RISK OF OPPOSING THE ZEROZAKI.
ALL THIS TO AVENGE YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU
.....
I ALMOST FEEL AS IF I WOULDN'T MIND BEING KILLED BY YOU RIGHT HERE.
How-ever...
DON'T TELL ME THE ONE THEY CALL MIND RENDER INTENDS TO RAISE A WHITE FLAG.
PLEASE DON'T DIS-APPOINT ME.
How-ever...
Unlike you Sawarabi,
We Zerozaki -

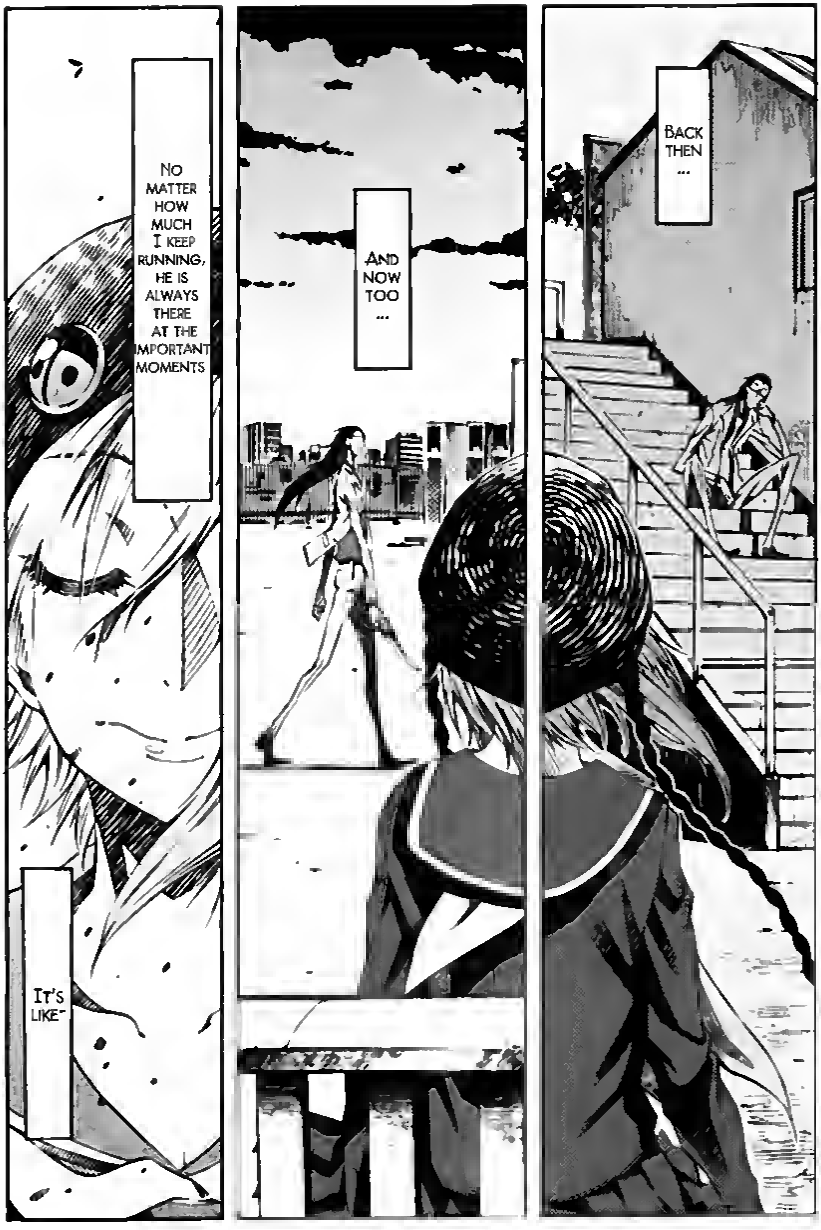
ARE "HOMICIDAL MONSTERS"
YOU KILL DEPENDENT ON THE SITUATION,
AND EVEN ABANDON YOUR PRINCIPLES WITH SUCH EASE
WE WERE IN DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS FROM THE GET-GO
KILLING MAY BE A "JOB" TO YOU ALL,
BUT TO US ZEROZAKI, KILLING-

IS A
WAY OF
LIFE.

KILLING IS...
THEIR WAY OF LIFE...
IORI-CHAN,
YOUR OLDER BRO-THER,
EH?
AH... BUT...
DON'T WORRY
YOU STAY THERE AND WATCH.

IS A DEPENDABLE GUY.


AH...
I SEE...


BACK THEN ...
AND NOW TOO ...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I KEEP RUNNING, HE IS ALWAYS THERE AT THE IMPORTANT MOMENTS
IT'S LIKE~

HE'S AN ACTUAL OLDER BROTHER.
SO, I'M SURE OF IT...
AT THE VERY LEAST, JUST FOR NOW-

I CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM HERE.

Fufu.
THAT'S A NICE LOOK IN YOUR EYES.
FOR A ZEROZAKI THAT'S BEEN ABANDONED BY EVERY-THING,
THAT RESOLVE IS BEFITTING.
.....
REPULSIVE...
SO THIS LITTLE GIRL WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME LIKE MIND RENDER AND THAT OTHER ZEROZAKI ...?

I will bestow upon you the ultimate honor.
Nagumakun.
And face you seriously.
NOW THEN_

LET US BEGIN!!
ZEROZAKI

Human Exam

Past Questions

① Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken

Originally, there was a light novel called Kubishime Romanticist with a subtitle of Ningen Shikkaku・Zerozaki Hitoshiki. In the middle of the story, a human failure and homicidal monster, Zerozaki Hitoshiki, appears as a side character to oppose the protagonist. From the information regarding Zerozaki Hitoshiki, the name of a mysterious group called the Zerozaki Family briefly appears with no explanation whatsoever. Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken is a separate series revolving around that mysterious group.

This also marked the beginning of the Ningen Series. By 2011, this series was already complete. The Ningen series, this Ningen Shiken in particular, was a light novel written with the intention of being turned into a serialized manga, and so, I am deeply moved that this has come to pass.

② Zerozaki Soushiki

This story's protagonist. Homicidal monster.
Onii-chan.
Zerozaki Family's Eldest Brother

Author Nishio Ishin

When the title Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken was first announced, people read his first name as "Futashiki", rather than "Soushiki". And so, likely because of the character "futa", people reasoned that he was the twin brother of the character Zerozaki Hitoshiki from another series.*

He is skilled at the cossack dance... which is a setting I suddenly remembered just now. In the original light novels, he's described by words like "wirey", but for the most part "pervert" gets the message across.

*T/N: THE CHARACTER FOR "SOU" IN "SOUSHIKI" CAN ALSO BE READ "FUTA", AND THIS "FUTA" IS THE SAME CHARACTER USED IN "FUTAGO", WHICH MEANS TWINS)

③ Mutoh Iori.

The heroine of this story?
Little sister heroine?
I suppose you can call her another protagonist.
Female high school student.
Also, homicidal maniac (interim).

I'm pretty sure I derived the family name "Mutoh" from "no end". Like, no matter how much this girl runs away, there's no end to it. Also, it can be read "no way to kill", to line up with the idea of the homicidal maniac Zerozaki.*

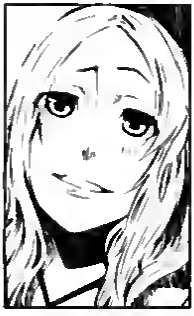
She doesn't get along with her older brother, but does get along with her older sister. At the end of the original light novel, she became the way she is now. In the manga, that element will develop, but it's hard to say how.

TL NOTE: THE CHARACTERS FOR "MUTOH" ARE HULL AND PAWLONIA TREE, WHICH IS READ "KIRI". "KIRI" CAN BE A HOMOHYM FOR "END" OR "TO CUT / KILL"

⑤ Mutoh Hatsubame

Mutoh Iori's older brother and sister. In the original light novel, they didn't really have any lines and were murdered by Naguma-san for no particular reason.

They made an unexpected appearance in this manga version, though. I went ahead and introduced the sister by name here.



④ Mutoh Kengo

⑥ Sawarabi Naguma

Second son of the three Sawarabi siblings, a branch family of the Nounomiya troupe.
His occupation is a hitman.
Has a moody personality.
An emotionally unstable naginata-wielder.

Because Soushiki uses scissors as a weapon, I thought I would give the enemy a proper weapon. Well, there's his older brother and little sister too, so I'll leave the details for another Past Questions release to mention them all together.

Anyway, look forward which route the Sawarabi siblings take in this manga version as well.

⑧ Zerozaki Family

Group of homicidal monsters.
A "family" consisting of homicidal monsters.

One big happy family connected, not by blood, but by bloodshed.

In a novelist-like fashion, 100%, the community's name came first. You could say I decided on the fearful details from asking myself, "Okay, I thought up this idea of the Zerozaki Family. Now, what are they?"

⑦ Tsuge Jion

Ion's classmate.
He lived a little longer in the original light novel.
Also, he passed the exam.
But his likability is definitely higher in the manga version.

⑩ Tokinomiya

Up to the 3rd chapter, I haven't said much about this community, but, let's just say, this is a world where strange people like the "Zerozaki", "Sawarabi", "Niounomiya", and "Tokinomiya" run rampant. Scary, isn't it?

⑨ Niounomiya

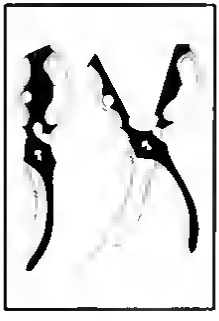
⑪ Homicidal Monster

A monster that kills. Nothing more, nothing less.

⑫ Mind Render

The lethal weapon which Zerozaki Soushiki flails around. Also the origin of his alias. The work of a famous weapons maker. That person was probably serious when he made this.
Not limited to "Ningen Shiken", you often see staplers or some sort of stationary make an appearance as weapons in the light novels this authors works on. Well, writing light novels is desk work, so the things on our desk would catch our eyes one way or another, right?

Let's all use stationery for their intended purposes. A mandatory disclaimer.



⑬ Ningen Shiken

A judgement on humans carried out by the homicidal monster, Zerozaki Soushiki. It is carried out without room forobjections. Even though it's an exam.

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